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LETTERS

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Thomas Hammond Foxcroft

P.C.38. 17992

LETTERS

FROM A

MOOR at *London*

TO HIS

FRIEND at *Tunis*.

CONTAINING

An ACCOUNT of his Journey through *England*, with his Obſervations on the Laws, Cuſtoms, Religion, and Manners of the ENGLISH NATION.

LIKEWISE

Remarks on the Publick Charities, with curious Memoirs relating to the Life of Mr. SUTTON, Founder of the CHARTER-HOUSE.

A Deſcription of BEDLAM, with ſerious Reflections on Love, Madneſs, and Self-Murder.

The whole interſperſed with Hiſtorical Remarks and uſeful Obſervations.

LONDON:

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17992

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LETTER I.

SIR,

THE tempeſtuous weather we met with at ſea, made me deſpair of ever ſeeing my own, or any other country; but after a long and dangerous voyage I am at laſt arrived ſafe at London. The diſtance of time ſince I left you, has, I fear, almoſt made you forget me. I would have ſent to you much ſooner, if I could have entertain'd you with ſomething worth peruſing; but you may eaſily imagine I muſt be ſome time in a ſtrange country before I could preſume to ſend you any tolerable account of the manners and cuſtoms of the People. There are innumerable more difficulties in travelling than are imagin'd: at one's

firſt ſetting out, we then think of nothing but pleaſure and delight; but were it not for the novelties one meets with to divert the mind, the fatigues would be intolerable. Strange cuſtoms, religion and laws, the manner of diet, the loſs of the Society of one's intimate friends, makes one ſeem in a deſert amidſt thouſands of People. But I begin now to be a little acquainted, and can converſe in the Engliſh language to be underſtood. My chief employment is in learning the nature of the Engliſh conſtitution, and the manners of the People. In compliance therefore with your requeſt and my promiſe, I here ſend you the beſt account I am able of the kingdom of England. I ſhall neither burthen you with trifles, nor omit any thing material; the country abounds with ſo much diverſity, that I ſhall be ever ſending ſomething new. I expect you will ſend me a particular account of the Tranſactions at home; for notwithſtanding I here meet with occurrences which daily employ my thoughts, yet the impreſſion my dear native country and friends has made in my mind, will always find the firſt place. When I conſider the ties of friendſhip, the many agreeable hours of converſation, the topics upon which we us'd to diſcourſe, and what infinite Satisfaction I receiv'd, makes me at ſome times like a child wean'd from the breaſt; my ſpirits as it were ſink within me, and ſeem to languiſh and pine after their native air. But reaſon aſſiſts me in theſe melancholy hours, refreſhes my drooping ſoul, and ſoon makes me alive again. I am conſcious my time will not

be

be loſt, and all my toil and labour will be rewarded, by the knowledge and experience I ſhall gain; which will afford me an infinite ſatisfaction, when Providence, who guides and directs us, ſhall vouchſafe to ſend me a ſafe return to my dear friends and native country.

I PROCEED now to give you ſome account of England, and did intend to begin with the city of London; but I have ſince alter'd my reſolution. In this Letter therefore you'll find ſome account of its ancient inhabitants, climate, government, and titles of honour enjoy'd by the preſent inhabitants, with ſuch neceſſary obſervations as ſhall occur to my mind.

I have taken a great deal of pains to inform my ſelf concerning the original of the Engliſh people; but all to no purpoſe; for there are ſuch diverſity of opinions upon this ſubject, that none are to be depended upon; ſome imagine them to be originally created here; but their religion inſtructing them, that there was once an univerſal deluge, in which the whole world was deſtroy'd, except a man call'd Noah, and his family, they from thence conclude, all nations in the world are deſcended from this Noah and his ſons, and of courſe the people of this iſland; for you muſt underſtand, that the Chriſtians, though at ſo wide a diſtance from the Jews in opinion, yet acknowledge the Jewiſh traditions; I take much delight in ſearching into the myſteries of religion; and ſhall hereafter communicate ſuch ſtrange accounts as will aſtoniſh you; but you muſt wait with patience till then, becauſe what I intend to

write will be from my own knowledge and obſervation.

THE Engliſh, or Britiſh people before the Roman conqueſt, were rude and barbarous; they painted their bodies, and covered their nakedneſs with plates of iron, which was more eſteemed by them than gold to other nations. They were governed by ſeveral kings, one independent on the other. They worſhipped various deities, and are ſaid to have had recourſe to unclean ſpirits to gratify their private revenge. They ſacrificed human fleſh, which ceremony was performed by their Druids or Prieſts, whoſe office was much rever'd. They were the inſtructors of youth, the interpreters of ſacred rites; and their deciſions in all controverſies and offences were deem'd ſacred; thoſe who refus'd obedience to their decrees, loſt their privileges, and were excommunicated the Church. They had no ceremony of marriages; living together in common; but this cuſtom was obſerv'd, that the man who had a maid's virginity was the reputed father of all the children ſhe bore. They were brave in war, not apt to quarrel, impatient of injuries, and reſolute in revenging them. Their habits were generally made of ſkins, and huts their habitations. Thus much for the ancient Britains.

THE Engliſh are now a very polite people, of excellent converſation, good learning and ſenſe, much addicted to melancholy and ſelf-murder, of which I ſhall hereafter ſpeak more at large; they

they delight much in dress, and envy each other's greatness, from the highest to the lowest; they are very stubborn, insomuch that the children will undergo severe beating, and not be made to acknowledge a fault at last. This temper is sometimes attended with ill effects among the poorer sort of people; for rather than submit they'll lose their livelihood. They are stout soldiers, if they have good provisions, but very dead-hearted when in want: They are in general rich, and of course luxurious. They have much show of religion without practice, and notwithstanding the kingdom abounds with innumerable temples, it is esteem'd witty and pleasant conversation to ridicule their Deity. Let these general observations satisfy you for the present, I shall now proceed to give you a description of the country.

ENGLAND is divided from Scotland by the rivers Tweed and Solway. It is surrounded with Water; from Weymouth, in the county of Dorset, to Berwick upon Tweed, the last town in England, it is about 280 miles long; and from St. David's Head in the county of Pembroke, to Yarmouth in Norfolk, 260 miles broad. It is of a triangular Form, and in circumference about 1000 miles.

IT is divided again into two Parts, *viz.* England and Wales; for notwithstanding the Welshmen are govern'd by English laws, they retain their original language to this Day. The Severn, a large and navigable river, divides the two countries; tho' anciently it is said to be divided by a large ditch eighty miles long, dug by Offa king of

the Mercians. No Welſhman was to paſs this ditch on pain of loſing his right-hand.

ENGLAND is ſituated in a delightful and temperate climate, the ſummers not too ſearching, nor the winters too cold; it is well watered with rivers, many of which are navigable, as the Thames, the Severn, &c. it has frequent and pleaſant ſhowers of rain, which makes the earth very fertile; and no labour is wanting to improve nature by the Engliſh husbandmen; land, which not many years ſince was woods and almoſt deſerts, is now either paſture or arable; fens and marſhy grounds are made capable of producing great crops of grain; and in a dry ſeaſon the farmers of them get great profit. Notwithſtanding the vaſt increaſe of people in this kingdom, were it not for the great quantities of wheat which are exported, its price would be ſo low, as to render the farmers incapable of paying their rents. Paſture lands have been likewiſe wonderfully improved; the number of cattle in this kingdom, is almoſt incredible, were one not an eye witneſs. I ſhall not wonder to hear you doubt the truth of it; for there is no nation in the world produces the like quantity; and it may very juſtly be ſaid, that no people whatever eat ſo much fleſh as Engliſhmen. The chief grain produced here, is wheat, rye, barley, oats, peaſe, beans, and tares; the chief cattle for eating are oxen and ſheep. Fiſh is likewiſe plentiful, both from the freſh and ſalt water; ſuch as Cod, haddock, turbut, plaice, flounders, &c. as are in the freſh water, ſalmon, trout, perch, barbel, eels, roch, dace, gudgeons, carp,

carp, and tench, with many other ſorts, which are very delicate; and abundance of ſhell-fiſh. Here is alſo veniſon, but it is either upon the King's-chaſes or foreſts, or confin'd to the parks and encloſures of the nobility and gentlemen of large eſtates; which makes it very dear. Here are plenty of fowl both tame and wild, as partridges, pheaſants, woodcocks, ſnipes, ducks, teal, widgeon, &c. and for tame fowls, there are turkeys, geeſe,, ducks, pidgeons, &c. in ſhort, the country abounds with every thing neceſſary for the ſupport and paſtime of its inhabitants. Excellent horſes are bred here, whether we conſider them for ſwiftneſs, beauty, or labour. The latter ſort are of infinite ſervice in conveying goods in the inland country; for tho' here are ſeveral navigable rivers, yet in many places the people are obliged to have their goods ſent them by land carriage, which makes this city abound with very commodious inns for the reception of carriers; the different counties being chiefly ſupplied with neceſſaries from London, which is a ſort of Magazine to the whole kingdom. Here are abundance of ſtage-coaches, for the convenience of travellers; there being ſcarce a town of note in the kingdom, but has a ſtage belonging to it; ſuch a number of carriers and ſtages muſt therefore neceſſarily require abundance of able horſes, which the people take great care to breed; and there are ſeveral fairs where the dealers buy them, prrticularly one every week in London, which is kept in a ſpacious place, call'd Smithfield.

You would be ſurpriz'd to ſee how the gentlemen admire the horſes bred for ſwiftneſs; more care being taken for the ſupport of them than for many poor families; and by the exceſſive delight I have obſerv'd ſome gentlemen take in them, it is much to be doubted whether the loſs of a favourite horſe would not cauſe more grief than the loſs of a wife or an only ſon. Theſe creatures afford the nobility and gentry great diverſion during the ſummer ſeaſon. The vaſt ſums of money depending on their ſwiftneſs, renders it deſerving the title of, *The game of horſe race*; there is no game more deſtructive than this; tradeſmen purſue it, and ruin purſues them.

The earth in many places is well ſtor'd with mines of lead, tin, iron, and ſome of ſilver. The tin mines are very ſerviceable to this kingdom, and the Profits ariſing from them very conderable. Here are likewiſe great plenty of coal mines. In theſe mines or pits vaſt numbers of people are employed; they are a ſort of ſubterraneous creatures, being the greateſt part of their lives bury'd under ground; and run great hazards of loſing their lives; you may imagine ſomething of the nature of theſe mines, and the lives of thoſe who work in them, from the following narration, which is an inconteſtible truth.

On Friday the 17th of November, 1735, as Joſeph Smith, aged upwards of ſixty, Edward Peacock, Abraham Peacock his ſon, all of the pariſh of Beeton, and Thomas Hemins, of Mangotsfield, all coal-miners, were wedging out the

coal

coal in a coal-mine, near Mile-hill in King's-wood, (rented by leaſe of Thomas Cheſter, Eſq; by Joſeph Jefferies, Edward Willmot, and Thomas Naſh) on a ſudden a prodigious torrent of water burſted out of a vein, that all of them were in immediate danger of death, not knowing whither to go to eſcape their dreaded fate, for want of their lights, which were all extinguiſhed by the water, every man therefore ſhifted for himſelf as providence directed him. Such was their conſternation and horror, that go which way they would, danger was near them, either of drowning or breaking their necks, the mine being ſixteen fathom deep, with many ſlants and craggy places. In this diſtreſs they crawl'd, ſometimes on their hands and knees, from place to place to avoid the water; and getting to a riſing ground, they continued there ſome time, when proceeding farther, they at length came to what they call in the mines a hatching, a high ſlant from whence coal had been dug, and in which the boy had ſecured himſelf, making lamentable moan, and giving himſelf up to death. The three men came together by calling to each other. In their way to the hatchin Joſeph Peacock found a bit of beef and a cruſt of bread, weighing as they ſuppos'd in all about four ounces, which they equally divided. The boy's ſituation being the moſt ſecure, they continued there to the time of their relief, and made the boy fetch them water in his Hat, as beſt knowing the way, which was but a poor little by the time he return'd with it; but the water falling conſiderably, it became ſo

dangerous to have a ſupply, that the boy could not be prevailed on to fetch any more, which forced them to the neceſſity of drinking their own urine, and chew ſome chips, which Joſeph Smith had cut from a coal-basket he accidentally found; which being all gone, and the old man loſing his knife, they could get no more from this basket. Being all ready to periſh for want of moiſture, Joſeph Smith chew'd a piece of his ſhoe, which not anſwering his end, he took a reſolution of endeavouring to come at the water; in which attempt he tumbled twice, and would have been drown'd each time, had not Edward Peacock ventured to ſave him. What with the heat of the place they were in, the ſmell of their urine, the nauſeous fumes of their own bodies, their want of water, meat, &c. during ſo long a time, cannot be look'd upon otherwiſe than a miracle at their being alive. One would think it impoſſible four perſons ſhould ſuſtain life after ſo long a hardſhip, and with only the ſmall portion of four ounces of meat and bread.

TOWARDS the cloſe of their deplorable miſery, which was till Monday the 17th of November 1735, ten days from the burſting of the Vein, they were taken out of their diſmal cell; the old man, Joſeph Smith, began to yield to nature, and grew delirious; and indeed the reſt gave over all hopes of relief, and began to decline too by weakneſs; tho' being healthy young perſons could have held out ſeveral days longer.

AT the firſt burſting of the vein, there were four other boys in the ſame mine, but being at what they

they call the tip of the work, and hearing the noiſe of the water, made the beſt of their way to a rope, crying to the people on the ſurface to pull them up, which was not ſo ſpeedy but the water was at the laſt boy's heels, who as the other three were haling up, catch'd hold of one of his companion's feet, and all got ſafe to the top.

THIS being nois'd in the neighbouring hamlets, great numbers of people reſorted daily to the pit, and divers colliers ventur'd down at different times, in order to relieve their unfortunate brethren; but perceiving a black damp in the work, which they reckon the moſt dangerous, and admitting of no lighted candle, were as often obliged to return, till providence had ordered others to a more ſucceſsful attempt, viz. Sampſon Phipps, Thomas Somers, Moſes Reynolds, and Thomas Smith, ſon to old Joſeph Smith, who prudently carried down a parcel of coals on fire, which ſo draughted the damp, that they got their miſerable brethren, except Thomas Boliſon, who was all the time miſſing and ſuppos'd to be drowned.

WHEN they were brought into the open air, their ſight entirely failed them for ſome time, and were all weak and feeble; but after having ſome comfortable refreſhment, they all walk'd to their reſpective homes, to the great ſurprize of the people preſent.

BEING told the long time of their calamity, they were under a conſternation, not thinking it had been above five or ſix days.

THE morning of their never-to-be-forgotten preſervation, Thomas Smith, ſon to old Joſeph

Smith,

Smith, intended to beſpeak a coffin for his father and his mother had made preparation for his funeral. You muſt excuſe the formality of this relation, it being of a very particular nature.

THERE are many thouſand people, whoſe whole ſupport depends upon the coal-trade; and the great number of ſhips employed, are a ſort of nurſery to the royal navy of England.

THE Engliſh government is form'd upon the fineſt model in the world; it is an hereditary limited monarchy, and govern'd by laws and cuſtoms of its own making. A wiſe and good king reigns with pleaſure; his Subjects contributing with a ready mind to the ſupport of his honour and dignity: If a foreign prince was to menace or inſult a Britiſh king, the whole nation would be in flames, to revenge the injury. A certain prince in Europe, whoſe obligations to the Engliſh nation are well known, is ſenſible of this truth.

IF a king on the other hand, endeavours to deſtroy or even infringe on the liberties of the ſubject, he becomes the moſt miſerable of men. His people then become obſtinate, and ſo far from granting extraordinary ſupplies, will not grant neceſſary ones. He is hated, his court abandoned by men of ſpirit and honour, and none but flatterers, fools, and baſe cowards attend him. The ſpirit of the Engliſh people plainly diſcovers itſelf, by taking a ſhort view of the reign of king Charles the firſt; that prince, tho' in himſelf, a good and pious man, yet by a few wrong ſteps in government, and oppoſing and diſ-

ſolving

ſolving his parliaments, embarras'd the nation in a domeſtic bloody war, and himſelf at laſt fell a ſacrifice. His unhappy ſon, king James the ſecond, contrary to the advice of his elder brother Charles the ſecond, and the fatal conſequence which attended his father, run into the moſt deſtructive ſchemes which could poſſibly be form'd; prieſts were his counſellors, Rome his darling, and bigottry deſtroyed his reaſon. His ſubjects grew jealous, of their liberties; they plainly perceiving the conſtitution in danger of being ſubverted, form'd themſelves into bodies, invited the prince of Orange, who marry'd king James's daughter; he accepted the invitation; run the hazard of the Seas, ſav'd this kingdom from deſtruction; the father-in-law abdicates, the prince of Orange is made king, tyranny is deſtroy'd and liberty reſtor'd. Thus the man who governed ſo great a people lived to hear himſelf branded with the character of a run-a-way, and ſaw another in poſſeſſion of a kingdom he might with honour have enjoyed.

In this revolution of government no blood was ſpilt, nor any cruelties exercis'd; the Prince of Orange however at his firſt landing was ſomewhat terrified, the Engliſh gentlemen not joining him ſo ſoon as he expected, and the unhappy fate of the duke of Monmouth being ſtill freſh in his Memory, created in him much uneaſineſs.

Notwithstanding he was invited here by the Voice of the Nation to protect them in their ancient rights and privileges, and muſt have fell a ſacrifice to King James, had the Engliſh

prov'd

prov'd faithleſs; yet a late famous Hiſtorian *Of his own Times*, Dr. Gilbert Burnet, biſhop of Salisbury, endeavour'd to prove his *Right of Conqueſt*; for which he was very much cenſured, and the diſcourſe in which he endeavoured to prove it was burnt by the common hangman.

In this the true Spirit of the Engliſh plainly diſcovered itſelf; for where would have been the difference between ſubmitting to the arbitrary power of King James, and the conqueſt of the Prince of Orange? King James acted at leaſt under the ſhadow of law, but a Conqueror impoſes what laws he pleaſes upon his captives, and makes them ſubmit to the yoke of ſlavery; for can there be greater ſlaves than a conquer'd people? Thus much for the politicks and religion of biſhop Burnet.

The Kings of England have great homage ſhewn them by their ſubjects; they ſtile themſelves in the plural number, *We*; they are ſpoke to by the title of *Your Majeſty*, and *Sir*. They are ſerv'd on the knee, and have all the honour paid them which can poſſibly be imagin'd. Their perſons are ſo ſacred, that it is High Treaſon to conſpire or imagine their death: even to kill any of their chief officers, as the Judges executing their office, or to counterfeit the King's coin or ſeal, is deemed High Treaſon. For the better ſecurity of their perſons, they have cup-bearers, carvers, and other ſworn officers to be their taſters; likewiſe guards, both horſe and foot, to watch and attend their Royal perſons both night and day, who are the moſt compleat and beſt cloath'd

cloath'd men which perhaps any King in Europe can boaſt of ; and great care is taken by his preſent Majeſty to prevent their receiving any abuſe : which makes them perform their duty, and preſerve their Sovereign, not as mercenary troops, but as faithful ſervants and loyal ſubjects. In caſe of ſickneſs, no phyſick out to be given their kings, without mature advice ; and every ſubject is bound to defend and protect their royal perſons with both life and fortune.

At the coronation of a King, he is anointed with oil, and inveſted with a prieſtly garment, and made capable of ſpiritual juriſdiction, and is an external Biſhop of the Church, ſupreme Paſtor of England, and Defender of the Faith. He has not only the right of eccleſiaſtical government, but hath alſo the tenths and firſt fruits of all ſpiritual livings.

The King, by his royal prerogative, and without act of parliament, hath power to make war or peace, contract leagues, and ſend ambaſſadors ; to grant commiſſions, to diſpoſe of ſhips of war, ammunitions, caſtles, fortreſſes, magazines, ports, havens, *&c.* He has power to coin money, and may by his letters patents erect new biſhopricks, univerſities, colleges, hoſpitals, and free ſchools ; he may grant charters to cities or towns, and endue them with particular privileges. He may erect new courts of judicature where he pleaſes, make foreſts, chaſes, *&c.* may grant letters of mart, call, prorogue, adjourn, and diſſolve parliaments at his royal pleaſure ; tho' this laſt uſe of his power is attended with fatal effects,

fects, as has been before obſerv'd. He is the fountain of honour, he creates nobility and makes gentry. He appoints all his officers both for ſea and land, alſo magiſtrates, biſhops, and other officers of church and ſtate. He hath power to pardon criminals, after being capitally convicted by a due courſe of law.

THE power of the King being thus extenſive, and too much to be executed by any one man; his Majeſty therefore appoints ſome of his moſt worthy and faithful ſubjects to be his Privy Counſellors, who meet twice a week, *viz.* Sundays and Thurſdays; every one there gives his opinion concerning national affairs. They are ſworn to the utmoſt of their powers and abilities truly to adviſe and counſel the King, and to keep ſecret his Majeſty's counſels. But leſt there ſhould be ſome traitors among them, the King ſelects a few out of theſe, which is call'd a cabinet counſel, in whom his Majeſty confides in a more particular manner.

THE King's court is freed from the juriſdiction of any other except that of the lord ſteward; and in his abſence to the treaſurer and comptroller of the King's houſhold, with the ſteward of the marſhalſea, who by virtue of their offices may hear and determine treaſon, felony, and all miſdemeanours committed within the court. The King's palace is deemed ſo ſacred, that no inſolencies are ſuffered therein. Striking is not only forbidden, but attended both with corporal and pecuniary puniſhments; if blood be drawn, the right hand is to be cut off,

off, the execution of which is performed with great ceremony, in the following manner; the ſergeant of the King's wood-yard brings to the place of execution a ſquare block, a beetle, ſtaple, and cords to faſten the hand; the yeoman of the ſcullery provides a great fire of coals by the block, where the ſearing irons, brought by the chief farrier, are to be ready for the chief ſurgeon; cold water and vinegar are brought by the groom of the ſaucery; the chief officers of the pantry and cellar are likewiſe to be ready, one with a cup of red wine, and the other with a manchet, to offer the criminal. The ſergeant of the ewry is to bring linnen to wind about the arm; the yeoman of the poultry brings a cock to lay it on, the yeoman of the chandlery ſear'd cloths, the maſter cook a ſharp dreſſer-knife, which at the place of execution is to be held upright by the ſergeant of the larder, till execution be perform'd by an officer appointed for that purpoſe. After this the criminal ſhall be puniſhed during life, and fin'd at the King's pleaſure.

THE dominions of the king of England are at preſent very large, for beſides the kingdoms of England and Scotland, or Great Britain, and Ireland, there are many iſlands adjacent, as the iſles of Orkney, or Orcades, in number thirty-two, which are ſeated againſt the northern cape of Scotland; the iſles of Shetland, alſo under the Scottiſh dominions. The Hebrides in number 44, ſeated weſtward of Scotland. The Sorlings lying in the weſtern cape of Cornwall. The

Sporades

Sporades, being ſeveral iſles diſperſed about the Britiſh ſeas; the chief of theſe are, Man, ſeated betwixt England, Scotland and Ireland; Jerſey and Garnſey, on the French coaſt; Wight adjoining to Hantſhire; Portland, part of Dorſetſhire; Stepeholms and Flathom in Somerſetſhire; Aibbre in Cheſhire; Denny in Monmouthſhire; Cadley in Pembrokeſhire; Angleſey, which is one of the Welſh counties; Sheppey in Kent: Northey, Oſey, and Horſey in Eſſex; Ferne, Cocket, and Holy-Iſle in Northumberland; with many others. In America he has very large dominions; as Virginia, Maryland, New-York, New-England, Newfoundland, Carolina, Georgia; all theſe are on the continent; he has likwiſe ſeveral iſles, as Jamaica, Barbadoes, Bermudas, Antigua, &c.

THE king's revenue for the ſupport and dignity of the crown is very great; his ſubjects readily granting every thing he in reaſon deſires; by which means his power and ſtrength is dreaded both by ſea and land. No prince in Chriſtendom dare attack him; for the loſs of one battle would be their ruin, they having nothing but the Sea to fly to.

THE queen of England, during the life of the king, has as much ſtate as any queen in Chriſtendom; the conſpiring her death, or attempting to violate her chaſtity, is high treaſon. She is the ſecond perſon in the realm, and hath her court and officers apart.

THE king's eldeſt ſon is born duke of Cornwall, and enjoys all the profits of the ſaid duchy.

He

He is likewiſe created prince of Wales. It is high treaſon to conſpire his death; he has a great deal of reſpect ſhown him, as being next heir to the crown. He lives in great magnificence and ſplendor, and has his ſeveral officers.

THE younger ſons of the king have their titles from creation not birth; as dukes, marquiſes, or earls, according to the pleaſure of the king.

THE daughters of the kings of England are ſtiled princeſſes; and the title of *Royal Highneſs* is attributed to all the kings children; who are much reſpected and honoured.

THE ſervants in ordinary to his majeſty, are not only privileged from ſerving pariſh offices where they dwell, but are alſo protected from arreſts and impriſonments; but they are not by this means protected from law, and at their pleaſure to take up goods, and defy their creditors to ſue them for payment; redreſs is to be obtain'd from the Board of Green-Cloth; for the king himſelf, being the fountain of juſtice, and defender of his ſubjects rights, it is not to be ſuppos'd he will protect his own ſervants in villany.

THE degrees of honour in England are dukes, archbiſhops, marquiſes, earls, viſcounts, biſhops, barons, knights, eſquires, and gentlemen.

THE nobles of each degree take the right of precedency according to their ſeniority of creation, except thoſe who hold offices under the king; as the lord chancellor, lord preſident of his majeſty's council, lord privy ſeal, lord high chamberlain, &c.

THE

THE privileges of the Engliſh nobility are very great; their perſons are freed from all arreſts, outlawries, or attachments; they may in their journeys to court, being ſummoned thither, or to parliament by the king's writ, letter or meſſenger, kill one or two deer out of the king's park; and the like may done at their return. They give not their evidence upon oath, but upon their honour. They are try'd by their own peers; with many other valuable privileges.

A DUKE is next to the king in honour; he is created by patent and cincture of ſword, impoſition of a cap, and coronet of gold on his head, and a verge of gold put in his hand. This dignity was at firſt conferred upon the moſt brave in war, but is now hereditary; he is ſtiled *The illuſtrious, moſt high and noble Prince, or his Grace.* The armonial enſigns by which they are diſtinguiſhed from other nobles, is the coronet on which the helmet ſtands, viz. a ducal crown flowre.

ARCHBISHOPS are the next in dignity; but more particularly the archiſhop of Canterbury, his title is *Primate and Metropolitan over all England*; he is ſtil'd *His Grace*; likewiſe *The moſt Reverend Father in God*; he has great privileges and authority; he appoints the lent-preachers, has power to keep courts of judicature concerning eccleſiaſtical affairs; as *the court of arches, the court of audience, the court of faculties, the prerogative court, and the court of peculiars:* he hath the power of all probats of wills, and granting letters of adminiſtration where the perſons deceaſed has left five pounds or upwards out of the dioceſe.

dioceſe where he died. He has power to make the wills of all ſuch perſons within his province inteſtate, and to adminiſter their goods either to their relations, or to pious uſes, according to his own diſcretion. He has power to grant publick notaries, and appoint guardians; he may likewiſe grant to ſick or ancient People diſpenſations to eat fleſh in the time of prohibition.

A MARQUIS is created by a cincture of a ſword, impoſition of a cap of honour, with a coronet, and delivering of a patent into his hand. He is ſtil'd, *The Right Honourable.* His coronet is part flowered, and part pyramidal pearled, the flowers and pearls being of equal height.

AN earl is created by a cincture of a ſword, a mantle of ſtate put upon him by the king, with a cap and coronet upon his head, and a patent given into his hand. He is ſtil'd, *The Right Honourable.* His coronet is pyramidal, pointed and pearled, having flowers intermixed, but much ſhorter than the pearled points.

A VISCOUNT is created with the ſame ceremony as an earl, he is ſtil'd, *The Right Honourable.* His coronet is only pearled, with a cloſe row of pearls.

BISHOPS are likewiſe peers of the realm; but in the reign of king Charles the ſecond, there was a hard ſtruggle, whether they had a right to vote in capital caſes; but they at laſt were confirmed in their privileges; by which means the duke of York, afterwards king James the ſecond, gain'd his point; and he requited the biſhops for the

the ſervice done him, by honouring them with the tower!

A BARON is created by patent, is ſtil'd, *The Right Honourable*; his coronet hath but ſix large pearls about it; whereas the viſcounts is thick beſet.

BARONETS were created by king James the firſt of England; they were by their inſtitution to maintain within the province of Ulſter in Ireland for three years thirty foot ſoldiers at eight pence a day; inſtead of which they now anſwer a thouſand pound to the king, at their firſt creation. They bear the arms of Ulſter in the moſt convenient place of their eſcutcheon. This is indeed an hereditary honour, but not entitled to the privileges of the nobility; if they ſit in parliament, they are choſe as commoners of England. A perſon who receives this honour, ought to be of good reputation and family, at leaſt of three deſcents, and be poſſeſs'd of an eſtate of at leaſt a thouſand pound a year.

KNIGHTHOOD is a very ancient and honourable order, and is ſuppoſed to be beſtowed on none but men of worth and merit; and altho' their honour dies with them; yet their heirs, tho' not worth ten pound a year, may keep greyhounds, ſetting dogs, and nets for taking pheaſants and partridges; and are entitled to all the privileges of game; if they are in holy orders, may hold more than one benefice.

THERE are various degrees of knights, viz. knights of the garter, knights, baronets, knights of the Bath, and knights bachelors.

KNIGHTS

KNIGHTS of the garter, or of St. George, is an order of the moſt honour of any in England, making them companions with kings and emperors. It is the moſt ancient and honourable order in Chriſtendom; it was inſtituted by the victorious king Edward the third, in the twenty third year of his reign, and by him called knights of the blue garter. He appointed his ſucceſſors, the kings of England, as chief, and the number to be twenty-five other knights, ſo that with the king, there are twenty-ſix; which number is never to be increaſed. The ſolemnity of making theſe knights is peformed at Windſor, where the great king Edward, the founder, was born; and the ceremony is performed with great magnificence. There are belonging to this order fourteen ſecular canons, who are prieſts, thirteen vicars, and twenty-ſix poor knights, who are maintained by the college; there are likewiſe the prelate of the garter, the chancellor of the garter, the regiſter, the principal king at arms, called garter king at arms, and the uſher of the garter. The mark of diſtinction they wear in common, is a blue ribbon or garter, with the figure of St. George and the dragon fix'd to it; they likewiſe wear a blue garter about their leg, richly adorn'd, with theſe words in gold letters *Honi ſoit qui mal y penſe*, ſhame be to him that evil thinks.

UPON the left ſide of their breaſt, upon their outward garment, they wear a ſilver ſtar, of rich embroidery; but on feſtival days they are to wear a ſurcoat, a mantle, a high black velvet cap,

cap, a collar of SS's, with other badges of honnour and magnificence. This is an order of great eſteem in foreign countries, whoſe kings have ever thought it an honour to be admitted into the fellowſhip. None under nobility were admitted into this order till of late years.

A KNIGHT Banneret is of much honour and renown, it is conferred by the king under the royal ſtandard diſplay'd, for ſome ſignal ſervice performed in war.

KNIGHTS of the Bath are ancient and honourable, they are ſo termed on account of their bathing before the honour is conferred; they are commonly made at the coronation of a king or queen, or the inſtallment of a prince of Wales. They wear a ſcarlet ribbon croſs their ſhoulder; they are made with much ceremony; and at preſent the order is adorn'd with ſome of the principal men in the kingdom.

A KNIGHT Bachelor is a degree of honour which was anciently conferred upon thoſe who were valiant in war, it is now frequently conferred upon thoſe who wait on the king with congratulations upon any extraordinary occaſions from the different counties; as likewiſe upon the ſheriffs and aldermen of London; very few being lord-mayors without this honour. The ceremony is performed thus; the perſon to be knighted kneels down, the king puts a drawn ſword on his ſhoulders bids him ariſe Sir Thomas, Sir Tobiah, Sir Aminadab, &c. according as their names are; ſome of theſe knights have an utter averſion to a drawn ſword, which made one of them,

them in such haste to get from under it, that he mentioned his surname instead of his christian, and he was accordingly dubb'd Sir ---- It is an honour at present of no great repute; it is so far slighted by some gentlemen, that they avoid an opportunity of its being conferred on them.

An esquire is an honour either made so by the king or else by birth or office. Those made by the king are supposed to have merited it for their noble parts, or some publick undertaking; those by birth are the sons of viscounts, barons, the younger sons of dukes, marquises, and earls, the eldest sons of baronets and knights; those by office, are persons in a genteel employment under the king; as also sheriffs, justices of the peace, mayors, &c. but those who have acquir'd estates are generally called esquires.

Gentlemen are the last degree of honour in England, they are such either by their families; or who have by industry and trade acquired a sufficient support. They are companions for any degree, even the first nobility. It is a term so much in esteem at present, that you cannot confer a greater honour upon any man, of what distinction soever, even the King himself, than to say, *He is a compleat Gentleman*; and you cannot upbraid a nobleman with a more contemptible character than to say, *He is no Gentleman.*

The gentlemen in general are kind and humane, affable and courteous to every one; charitable in their opinions, and ready to excuse an Error; easy of access, and ready to do good offices.

I SHALL now give you a deſcription of the common people of England, who divide themſelves into a great many claſſes, or diſtinctions; firſt the merchants, then the wholeſale traders, ſhopkeepers, artificers, or mechanicks, who value themſelves much upon the reputation their occupation bears among mankind, and laſtly labourers and hir'd ſervants: the moſt contemptible among artificers are taylors, which I am much ſurpriz'd at; for none are more uſeful; they keep us from the rigour of the weather. And I have likewiſe obſerv'd ſeveral people, the Engliſh call beaux or butterflies, whoſe whole recommendation conſiſts in their taylors equipment.

IT has afforded me much diverſion to hear artificers talk about their art, each of which will exert the honour of his profeſſion, till blows decide the quarrel. They in fact value themſelves as much upon their profeſſions as any nobleman in the kingdom does upon his peerage.

THE merchants of England are generally as accompliſhd'd gentlemen as any in the kingdom; the opportunity they have of converſing and trading, not only with their own nation, but likewiſe with foreigners, added to a liberal education, improves them very much; and makes them have as general a knowledge of men and things as they have of trade.

THE ſhopkeepers are a gay ſort of people, of a genteel education, and delight much in pleaſure, of which I ſhall give you a more particular account in the deſcription of London.

THE

THE middling tradeſmen, as the artificers are generally term'd, are well behav'd men, live a regular and temperate life, are very uſeful members to the commonwealth; and men of much integrity.

THE loweſt claſs of the Engliſh are very bruti ſh and barbarous, much of the nature of their Bull-dogs; they are inſolent and abuſive, and much addicted to ridicule and ſcandal; they are very treacherous to one another, inſomuch that if one has entruſted his friend with a ſecret, the firſt quarrel diſcovers all; they are affronting to ſtrangers; much addicted to drunkenneſs, it being common to ſee them, both men and women wallowing in the ſtreets, and dying drunk; they laugh at the misfortunes of their neighbours, and triumph over miſery; they are indeed very laborious, and in that capacity of great ſervice to the commonwealth.

THESE are the moſt general obſervations I have hitherto made. I ſhall in my next give you a particular account of the city of London; which I am confident will afford you a great deal of pleaſure and amuſement. I wiſh you long life, health, and happineſs; and am

Your moſt faithful friend,

and ſervant.

LETTER II.

SIR,

I Shall in this Letter fulfil my promiſe in giving you a deſcription of London, which is a large and populous city, ſituated on a riſing ground in a healthy and pleaſant air, upon the banks of the river Thames; it abounds in riches, and enjoys a great many privileges: it is a ſort of kingdom within itſelf, being governed by officers of its own chuſing, and laws of its own making; it is of ſo great antiquity, that ſome think it was built by Brute the Trojan; but it is in general allow'd to be rebuilt by King Lud, and by him call'd Luddeſtown.

THE buildings are generally very ſumptuous, and the number almoſt incredible. But I muſt obſerve to you, that London, commonly ſo called, includes Weſtminſter, which is a large city adjoining to it; but they are generally underſtood as one place.

LONDON

LONDON is prodigious populous, and abounds with all things both for the neceſſities of life, and for the indulging pride and luxury. The merchants ſend to all parts of the world to bring here what the country can't produce. There are great numbers of ſhips continually going out and coming into the river Thames; yet it is always full, and may be properly call'd *The iſland of Ships*. Here I obſerv'd the manufactures of England in great quantities pack'd up for exportation, and the conſumption is ſo great, that there is a buſineſs particular for packing. This conſumption of their own manufactures employs great numbers of artificers, who are the moſt induſtrious people in the world; for they frequently ſet apart fifteen or ſixteen hours out of twenty four to labour: And although the people value themſelves much upon their liberty, yet they are a ſort of voluntary ſlaves; but the profit ariſing from their labour, feeds their avaritious tempers, and makes their toil a pleaſure.

THE river Thames is of the utmoſt importance, for the ſupport and grandeur of London, as well as the preventing peſtilential diſtempers; for there are drains or common-ſewers in every part to convey the dirt and filth into the Thames, which purges itſelf by its conſtant and regular tides. Upon this river are conſtantly employed ſome thouſands of watermen, who ply in little boats, for the convenience of paſſengers; for there is but one bridge near London; ſo that unleſs you croſs the water, inſtead of a quarter of a mile, you muſt go ſeven or eight miles; and till

of late years there was not a bridge within ten miles of that of London, which is call'd Kingſton-bridge: But now there is one about five or ſix miles, which is call'd Fulham or Putney-bridge, they being two villages on each ſhore; and it takes its name indifferently from either of them. London-bridge is the perfect repreſentation of a city, there being lofty houſes built upon it, inhabited by variety of trades, and ſeems as it were to grow out of the Thames. This bridge ſeparates London from Southwark, as likewiſe Middleſex from Surry. Near the bridge, or rather Grace-church-ſtreet, is a Monument of ſtone erected, on account of a fire which almoſt conſum'd the whole city of London. There is an inſcription upon it, which charges that dreadful conflagration upon the Roman Catholick chriſtians; but concerning this there are various opinions; and therefore I ſhall ſay nothing particular. Grace-church-ſtreet is one of the moſt capital ſtreets in the city, where are four croſs ways, which lead to four different parts of England, viz. Biſhopſgate-ſtreet, which leads to the North; Leadenhall-ſtreet to the Eaſt; Cornhill quite through the city to the Weſt, and Grace-church-ſtreet to the South, where it is join'd by Thames-ſtreet, ſo called from its ſituation on the banks of the Thames, from Puddle-dock to Tower-dock, which is about a mile in length. In this ſtreet are a great many wharfs for receiving goods brought by water carriage, the chief of which are timber and coals: here are likewiſe ſeveral wholeſale traders; but particularly cheeſe-

mongers.

mongers. The eaſt part is the moſt noted, both on account of the Cuſtom-houſe, and its nearneſs to the ſhips.

In this ſtreet is a great fiſh market, call'd Billingſgate, where the citizens and their wives ſometimes make a jovial company to eat oyſters, which are brought in great plenty. Here is likewiſe a ſort of exchange for dealers in the coal trade, where maſters of ſhips and lightermen meet, and trade for vaſt ſums of money in that commodity. The height of their exchange time, or what they call a full gate, is about twelve a-clock at noon: The place where they meet is call'd Roomland. A little farther towards the Eaſt, or the tower of London, is a corn-market call'd Bear-Key, which is kept every Monday, but the wheat here ſold is conſum'd chiefly by the diſtillers; the meal of which the bread is made is either bought in wheat at the country markets, or at the meal market in Thames-ſtreet, call'd Queenhith, which lies Weſtward of this corn market. Queenhith is commodiouſly ſituated for trade, it being ſo near the Thames, that the barges lie cloſe to the ware-houſes, into which the meal is unloaded with much eaſe. It is a pleaſant ſight to obſerve the number of barges which are ſometimes at Queenhith, and the vaſt quantities of meal they bring to market; which is the beſt ſort; for the country people ſend the beſt of all ſorts of their commodities to London. Theſe barges come from the weſt of England, as Guilford, Abingdon, Reading, Oxford, &c. and are from thence call'd weſt country barges.

At this market the bakers buy their meal, which is kept twice a week, but Monday is the general market day, very little buſineſs being done at any other time. The meal is ſold chiefly by factors, who are accountable to the farmers for the goods conſign'd to them: The factors give credit to the bakers, who make their payments in about a month after the goods are delivered. The London bakers make very fine and well taſted bread; and the pooreſt people generally eat the ſame ſort as thoſe of the greateſt diſtinction.

At the eaſt end of Thames-ſtreet is the tower of London; which may properly be called a town; for it contains ſeveral ſtreets; it is of a large circumference, and is ſurrounded by a high wall and deep ditch, but very little water in it, and is a place of no defence; there are indeed cannon planted all round, and ſome upon the tower wharf; but are of no other ſervice than celebrating the birth day of the king, and other royal holidays. At the entrance of the firſt gate are kept the Lions and other wild beaſts, which are preſented by the emperor of Morocco, or any other perſons; in this place the lions ſometimes whelp. Here are likewiſe ſome foreign birds of prey.

In this tower are preſerv'd ſeveral very curious and valuable things, viz. the ſeveral crowns, ſcepters, and other enſigns of royalty of this kingdom.

The imperial crown, with which all the Kings and Queens of this nation have been crown'd ſince Edward the confeſſor, in the year 1042.

1042. An attempt was once made to ſteal this crown out of the tower.

THE royal ſceptre with a croſs on the top, in which is a jewel of ineſtimable value; it is held by the kings or queens in their right hand at their coronation; and in their left hand is held the globe of the world.

THE diadems which Queen Mary and Queen Anne wore in their proceſſion to the coronation. The rich crown of ſtate, which the kings and queens wear on the throne, when they paſs acts of parliament, in which is an emerald ſeven inches in circumference, the fineſt pearl in the world, and a ruby of very great value.

A rich crown made for the coronation of Queen Mary, conſort to King William the third. Two fine ſceptres and the golden eagle.

THE little armory, or magazine of ſmall arms, where there are all manner of fuzees, carbines, halberts, pikes, bayonets, piſtols, and ſwords, for ſixty thouſand men.

THE two ſides of the room are adorn'd with pilaſters of pikes and piſtols, whoſe intercolumns are chequer'd work of carbines and piſtols; with ſwords and bayonets, repreſenting the waves of the ſea.

HALFMOONS, ſemi-circles, and a target of bayonets.

THE form of a battery in ſwords and piſtols.

SUNS, with circles of piſtols.

A pair of gates in halberts and piſtols.

THE witch of endor.

BACK-BONES of a whale in carbines, and a fiery ſerpent, Jupiter and the Hydra in bayonets.

THE ſtar and garter of that order, repreſented in piſtols and ſwords.

THE white tower is the magazine for powder.

IN the horſe armory are fifteen of the Engliſh kings on horſe back, in fine rich armours.

THE Mint, or office for coining money, makes a large ſtreet; there are ſeveral officers belonging to the Mint, which find employment enough from the prodigious and conſtant flux and reflux of money. The famous Sir Iſaac Newton was maſter of the Mint till his death.

IN this tower are kept the records of the nation, where any perſon may examine them from eight a-clock to twelve in the morning, and from two to ſix in the evening.

THE office of ordinance is kept here.

THIS tower is a priſon for perſons of quality; but people of a lower rank are ſometimes confin'd here. It is a place where ſeveral great perſonages have been beheaded; though Tower-hill, which lies adjacent, is the general place. The executioner is the common hangman, and an ax the beheading inſtrument; with which the hangman ſometimes makes two or three blows before the head is ſtruck off; which is very ſhocking to behold.

NEAR the tower is a houſe where are ſold variety of foreign birds and beaſts, of which the Engliſh people are very fond, and will give an extravagant price. There are fellows who paint

the

the Engliſh birds, give them ſtrange names, and ſell them at a great rate. I have my ſelf ſeen a bird of this kind ſold for above forty times its real value.

From Tower-hill I went Northward to the Minories, which is an healthy ſtreet, from whence there is a fine proſpect of the hills on the South ſide of the Thames. This ſtreet was once inhabited by gunſmiths, but the Engliſh having enjoyed a long peace, that trade is much leſſened. From the Minories I again croſs'd Tower-hill, and went to St. Katherines and Wapping. Theſe places are inhabited chiefly by ſea-faring men, and trades depending upon ſhipping. A great part of St. Katherines and Wapping has been conſum'd by fire; which has at the ſame time by its vicinity to the Thames, done much damage to the ſhips. I went along this place till I came to Shadwell-dock, which is conſiderably more than a mile, ſo that the Tower only dividing them, from Puddle-dock to Shadwell-dock, which is about three miles, is a continued line on the banks of the Thames. From hence I went through New-ſtreet to Shadwell-market, which is the pooreſt market about London. I then found my ſelf in Ratcliff-high-way, which is a long ſtreet, beginning at Eaſt-ſmithfield near the Tower, and reaches to Limehouſe; a place like Wapping, inhabited by ſea-faring men, and trades depending upon ſhipping. There is lately built a very handſome new church; by which I paſs'd in my way to Stepney, or Stebon-heath, an adjacent village, much frequented by ſailors, where great numbers

numbers of them are married. Here are several genteel buildings, which are inhabited chiefly by merchants and captains of ships. In Stepney-church-yard there are several tombs with inscriptions to the memory of sea-officers. And here I must acquaint you with one very great fault of the English nation; which is, that the monumental inscriptions, which ought to be in the best language, are sometimes hard to be understood, and very bad spelt. Near to Stepney or rather Limehouse, is a village call'd Poplar: which although adjoining to London, is as reserv'd as if many miles distant from any city.

At Mile-end, which is a pleasant place near Stepney, there are several genteel houses inhabited chiefly by sea captains. Here are likewise several alms-houses; but particularly one belonging to Trinity-house, for masters of ships, and their widows, which is very commodious; and where the old people may end their days in peace and quietness, and sit down with pleasure to recite the various fortunes of those whose dependance is upon the uncertainty of the winds and seas.

From Mile-end I came in a direct line to White-chapel, which is a very spacious street, and of great trade. Here is kept a hay-market, great numbers of carcase or wholesale butchers live here, who serve the petty butchers with meat; they likewise kill abundance of oxen for the sea service. White-chapel leads directly to Aldgate, which is the extreme part of London, towards the east; on the left is Fenchurch-street, which

which leads to Grace-church-ſtreet, croſs which is Lombard-ſtreet, a place well known for the reſidence of bankers. In this ſtreet is the Exchange-alley, which leads to Cornhill, over againſt the Royal Exchange. This alley is famous for ſtock-jobbers, more particularly noted in the ſouth-ſea year, 1720. where the world was in a manner turn'd upſide down. Abchurch lane likewiſe joins to Lombard-ſtreet, famous for an eating-houſe, viz. Pontack's, where you may be ſerv'd with proviſions of extraordinary price; at this houſe are kept many publick feaſts; and here many of the nobility and gentry meet to regale themſelves. The general poſt-office is in Lombard-ſtreet, and is the beſt in Europe. It is a large building in an oblong ſquare; the court is pav'd for merchants to walk in, while the letters are delivering out; the entrance into this court is by a very noble gate.

On the right is the board where the governors ſit to determine all matters relating to letters ſent to all parts of Europe, the plantations in America, as likewiſe to the different parts of Great Britain and Ireland. On the left is a large room for receiving and delivering all foreign letters. There is a long room fronting the gate where the clerks of every road in England, and their letter-ſorters under them, receive and diſtribute all the letters directed to any part of Great Britain and Wales. In the baſs-court is the letter-carriers office, who have each their ſtations aſſigned them, and with great convenience convey the letters in a few hours to all parts of the city. This

This office is under the direction of two governors; there is a comptroller to each office, foreign and domeſtic; a treaſurer, an accomptant general, a ſecretary with his clerks; clerks for foreign letters, and for every particular great road in England.

All affairs relating to this office are conducted with the utmoſt order and regularity. But many letters are loſt on account of wrong or ſimple directions. I happened one day to be in company, when the ſubject of converſation was on the manner ſome ignorant people directed their letters; and a gentleman in company related the following ſuperſcription on a letter, *To my ever-honoured mother, a waſherwoman, up two pair of ſtairs*, London. You may very eaſily imagine that this waſherwoman's quality would not diſcover her lodgings; but it was ſuppos'd that her ſon had been once in London, at his mother's lodgings up two pair of ſtairs, and living himſelf in a ſmall village where every inhabitant is known, concluded it was the ſame at London, where one may live many years as a lodger, eſpecially in the high ſtreets, and be known by ſcarce any one.

Lombard-ſtreet leads directly to the Poultry, where there is a priſon call'd *The Poultry-Compter*, in which debtors are confin'd; for it is the cuſtom of the Engliſh nation to confine mens bodies for very ſmall ſums of money, by which means they are render'd incapable either of paying their debts, or even ſupporting themſelves; and here are great numbers of officers daily

daily employ'd to ſeize ſuch unhappy debtors, who have no more compaſſion than a tyger leaping upon his prey. I am ſurpriz'd the wiſdom of the Engliſh parliament can't find out ways and means to regulate the affairs betwixt debtors and creditors, without depriving men of their natural liberty during their whole lives; and by that means become uſeleſs members to the commonwealth, and their families a burden to the nation.

A little further, turning down a ſtreet on the right hand, there is another priſon call'd *Wood-ſtreet Compter*, ſo call'd from the place it ſtands in; and ſerves for the ſame purpoſe as that in the *Poultry*.

In theſe priſons people are confin'd who commit riots or diſorders in the ſtreets in the night-time, particularly common whores and pick-pockets, of which this city abounds. In the evening theſe proſtitutes begin to appear, and have their walks from Charing-croſs to Aldgate, which is about two miles. Here are ſeveral taverns who for profit indulge theſe women in their lewdneſs; for they cauſe the men who go with them to ſpend a great deal of money, and rob them of their watches and any other valuables they have. Theſe women are the vileſt proſtitutes in nature; I have heard ſuch unaccountable ſtories of their lewdneſs, the relation of which is enough to ſhock a modeſt ear. But I muſt obſerve to you, my friend, that many of the young Engliſh noblemen and gentlemen are acceſſary to the ruin of theſe unhappy

happy creatures; for they employ pimps and procurers to delude them to their embraces; and after they have been glutted with debauchery, turn them into the world with a loſt character and abandon'd by their friends.

For ſuppreſſing riots, guarding the city, and preventing lewdneſs, there are in every pariſh a great number of watchmen, who are under the direction of conſtables, and ſerve the office for one year only: but this office is ſometimes abus'd by hir'd conſtables, who make gain of debauchery, by the tribute they receive from ſcandalous proſtitutes.

Adjoining to the Poultry is Cheapſide, a very ſpacious ſtreet, with lofty buildings, near which there is a good market: in this ſtreet is a beautiful and lofty church, call'd *St. Mary le bow*, the architecture of which is very much admir'd. This ſtreet is inhabited chiefly by ſhop-keepers, who generally live in the high ſtreets of London, ſuch as Fleet-ſtreet, Cheapſide, Cornhill, *&c.* theſe people make a very genteel appearance, and live in an expenſive manner; their wives and daughters dreſs exceeding fine, and take much pleaſure; in the winter they frequent plays, balls, opera's, *&c.* and during the ſummer-ſeaſon have their country-houſes or genteel lodgings. But this grandeur very often ſinks into poverty and miſery; for there is ſuch an inconſiderate pride attending moſt of them, that they cannot bear to ſee their neighbours or acquaintance go beyond them either in dreſs or grand living, tho' poſſeſs'd of ten times more fortune

fortune than themſelves. I have found, by a very nice obſervation, the difficulty, or rather impoſſibility, of making theſe dainty dames think of circumſtances, till they find themſelves overwhelm'd in misfortunes, and their husbands dragg'd to a jail.

I lodge at the houſe of a good reputable ſhopkeeper, whoſe wife is a very pretty behav'd genteel ſort of a woman. They have till of late liv'd a very comfortable and happy life; but now their behaviour to each other, nay their very countenances are alter'd. I was very much ſurpriz'd to ſee ſuch indifference between them, and was ſo free to ask my landlord the meaning of it. Ha! ſays he, with a deep ſigh, the alteration is too viſible to be conceal'd; and I will frankly tell you the whole occaſion of it. My wife was ſome time ago paying a viſit to an acquaintance of her's, the furniture of whoſe houſe was entirely new, and pleas'd my wife very much. Every night at going to bed this fine furniture was the ſubject of her converſation, and the concluſion was, *I wiſh, my dear, you would change our furniture for ſuch, it won't coſt ſo much.* Her continual teazing made me at laſt conſent; but the very next morning, I had the unwelcome news brought me, that a man who was that day to have paid me a conſiderable ſum of money, was become a bankrupt. You may imagine that this news ſhock'd me very much. I told my wife immediately of it, and at the ſame time that ſhe muſt be content with the furniture ſhe had already; at

which

which she flew into a violent passion, saying it was nothing but a pretence: and from that time the alteration you have observ'd took its rise.

This story affected me very much; for I have a great regard for the family; and therefore expostulated with my landlady concerning the unreasonableness of her demand; but no arguments could prevail upon her to think rationally; and she continu'd resolute to pursue the destruction of herself and family.

Here are continually such ups and downs, or various turns of fortune, that the winds and waves are not more uncertain than the circumstances of the merchants and tradesmen of the city of London.

But to return: on the right from Aldgate before-mention'd, I came into Leadenhall-street, where is one of the finest markets in Europe for all sorts of provisions; as likewise a leather market. In this street is the East-India-house, a noble and magnificent building; the publick buildings in general, were they not so much obstructed by the number of houses adjoining to them, would appear like splendid palaces.

From Leadenhall-street I came into Cornhill, in which the Royal Exchange is situated. The founder of this famous building was Sir Thomas Gresham, a merchant of London, who likewise built Gresham college. This Exchange was proclaimed *Royal* by order of Queen Elizabeth, by an herald with sound of trumpet. The Royal Exchange was consumed by the dreadful fire in the year 1666; it was rebuilt by order

of

of King Charles the ſecond, who laid the firſt ſtone; it coſt the city and mercers company, who were executors to Sir Thomas Greſham's will, about fifty thouſand pounds. It is a very handſome building, with proper conveniences to ſhelter the merchants from rain, who have their walks according to their different trade and nation; and it is here very eaſy to find out any merchant you have buſineſs with.

In the middle of the ſquare is a ſtatue of King Charles the ſecond, erected on a pedeſtal eight foot high, upon which is the following inſcription:

Cæſari Britannico, Patriæ Patri,
Regum Optimo, Clementiſſimo, Auguſtiſſimo,
Generis Humani Deliciis,
Utriuſque Fortunæ Victori,
Pacis Europæ Arbitro,
Marium Domino ac Vindici.

Here are likewiſe ſeveral other ſtatues, in the niches, of the Kings and Queens of England, adorned with their enſigns of royalty.

In this Exchange one may meet with people of almoſt every nation. From about one to near three a-clock it is like a fair; and the adjacent coffee-houſes are continually throng'd with merchants, ſtockjobbers, captains of ſhips, brokers, tradeſmen, artificers, and vaſt numbers of people of various occupations who have buſineſs with them. I have ſeen here ſome of the Engliſh nobility, who generally look down with contempt

contempt upon the citizens of London; but I am told the love of gain will ſometimes allure a few of them, either to ſtockjob, or marry a rich wife, which may eaſily be done, the London ladies being very fond of a title.

In the Royal Exchange are a great number of Shops, which were once of great note, and much frequented by the ladies to buy their decorations; but they are now moſtly ſhut up, and the whole appears like a deſolate place. Deſtruction ſeems to reign in the upper part; but in the lower part riches and grandeur.

On the north ſide of the Royal Exchange is the Bank of England, a very noble building of ſtone, where with ſafety may be depoſited any ſums of money; and to ſee the caſh which is daily receiv'd and paid here, one would imagine it the depoſitory of the whole world. Near the Bank, but more towards the Eaſt, is the South-Sea-houſe, a handſome brick building.

The Bank of England is ſituated in Threadneedle ſtreet, and comes weſtwardly to a point at Stocks-market with Cornhill and Lombard-ſtreet into the Poultry before-mention'd, and then into Cheapſide, at the end of which, on the left, is St. Paul's Church-yard, ſo called on account of St. Paul's cathedral being here ſituated; and at the right is Newgate-ſtreet, which leads directly through Holborn, to the Oxford road, as Biſhopſgate-ſtreet is the road to Cambridge.

St. Paul's cathedral is a very ſtately building, being eſteem'd the fineſt outſide of any church

church in Europe. It is ſituated in an area of about ſix acres of ground, and environ'd by a very ſtrong and beautiful balluſtrade of iron, erected on a wall of free ſtone. This building is entirely diſengaged from any other; it ſtands upon the higheſt ground in the city, and is ſeen from all the adjacent hilly countries many miles round, from whence it ſeems to join the very heavens.

THERE are to this cathedral three gates, viz. the North, the South, and the Weſt; but the Weſt is by much the more grand; and leads into the area, where is a ſtatue of the late Queen Anne, whoſe conqueſts, under the command of the great duke of Marlborough, made her famous all over the world. The former part of this Queen's reign was crown'd with honour and happineſs; but ſhe is ſaid to have been at laſt betray'd in a moſt baſe and ſcandalous manner by a new ſett of favourites, and at the ſame time meeting with much oppoſition from many of her ſubjects, was the cauſe of her death.

THE ſtatue of this Queen is in marble, and very well done, with a crown on her head, a ſceptre and globe in her hands, and adorn'd with royal robes, and enſigns of the garter. Round the pedeſtal are likewiſe four fine figures in marble, repreſenting Great Britain, France, Ireland, and America; the whole being very beautiful, and a great ornament to the city.

FROM this area you aſcend to the portico by very noble ſtone ſteps, inrailed with iron, where

where near a hundred men may walk up abreaſt.

THE Portico is ſupported with twelve pillars, and its gallery by eight; and here the hiſtory of the converſion of St. Paul, the patron of this cathedral, is curiouſly carv'd in basrelief. This ſaint was at firſt a great perſecutor of the Chriſtians, but is ſaid to have been miraculouſly converted.

ON each ſide of the portico is a very handſome tower, in the one is a great clock, which ſerves for a direction to ſet the clocks and watches of the citizens right; and by its height and bigneſs is heard in a ſtill night, not only in the different parts of the city, but many miles round. I heard a ſtory related of a centinel upon duty at Windſor-caſtle, which is twenty miles from London, who being accus'd of ſleeping, in his defence ſaid he heard St. Paul's clock ſtrike thirteen inſtead of twelve, which is ſaid to have been prov'd by ſeveral People in London; and the centinel was thereupon acquitted. I muſt confeſs this ſtory ſeems incredible; but when the height and bigneſs of the bell is conſider'd, and the ſituation of the two places, being near the Thames, it is not impoſſible.

IN the other tower is only one bell, which tolls for divine ſervice, but deſign'd for a chyme of bells, with which the Engliſh people are very much delighted; and there are in many churches in London, as in ſeveral other cities and towns in England, a peal of eight, ten or twelve bells, which

which are all ſet a ringing on the birth-days, &c. of the royal family of England; but this famous cathedral has no melodious bells to ſound the joy which is due to ſtate-holidays.

You may remember, Sir, I told you in my firſt letter, that I intended to ſend you not only a particular account of places, but likewiſe to intermix my letters with ſuch obſervations as occur'd to my mind; which are as uſeful and pleaſant as the deſcription of places: I ſhall therefore make ſome obſervations upon bells and bell-ringers, who are ſo exceſſively devoted to this laborious exerciſe, that they will travel many miles for the pleaſure of ringing a new or famous peal of bells. There is a church in this city, call'd St. Michael's, near the Royal Exchange, where there is a ring of twelve heavy bells: and I ſaw a company of ringers come out of this church after having labour'd at the ropes about ſix hours, with their hands almoſt tore to pieces, and their faces like dead corpſes: upon theſe bells they had rung ſeveral thouſand different changes, which they are taught arithmetically. I muſt confeſs there is ſomething very lofty and grand in the ſound of many bells in London, particularly thoſe of St. Mary le Bow in Cheapſide, which have ſo elevated my ſoul, that I have been carry'd for a time, as it were, into another world of glory and happineſs, and enjoy'd a kind of pleaſure beyond expreſſion. But theſe very bells which produc'd ſuch a ſolid joy in me, cauſe ſome people I have convers'd with, to ſink into a deep melancholy. So great

a difference there is in the effects produced on mankind by ſounds!

But to return to St. Paul's cathedral; from the ſteps before mention'd, on the Weſt end, I enter'd a great gate, which leads to the choir, or place where divine worſhip is performed: the cupola is finely painted by Sir James Thornhill, and contains the hiſtory of St. Paul in figures bigger than life; it is eſteem'd a fine piece of painting. and is what the artiſts call *Chiaro Oſcuro*; but I muſt confeſs its beauties are to me inviſible. After I had walk'd about ſome time, divine worſhip began, to which I was very attentive; every thing appear'd very grand and ſolemn; the muſick joining the voices of the prieſts, added very much to the ſolemnity, and inſpired me with ſuch a holy zeal, that I was almoſt ready to become a Chriſtian. But I was very much ſurpriz'd when I obſerv'd the geſtures of the prieſts, and could ſcarce believe my own eyes. They appear'd with no regard to the ſanctity of the place; one had a key upon his finger ſwinging it about; another diſplay'd his finger adorn'd with a fine diamond ring, holding his hand in the moſt advantageous poſture to diſplay its whiteneſs; his flowing hair at the ſame time was curl'd in a manner capable of rivalling the greateſt beaux. In ſhort thoſe whoſe office is to inſtruct the people, and attend the altars of the Divine Being, generally ſacrifice themſelves to the company of ladies, or the acquiſition of worldly grandeur.

Upon obſerving the indecent Geſtures of the prieſts in this cathedral, I made a very curious enquiry concerning the preſent ſtate of religion in England; which I find to be thus: The Church of England, or Chriſtian religion reform'd, as by law eſtabliſh'd, is the national Church. For directing and teaching this religion, there are three claſſes of men; firſt the Arch High-Prieſts and High-Prieſts, who are call'd Arch-biſhops and Biſhops; ſecondly, Prieſts; and thirdly, Deacons, who are the loweſt claſs. The office of the High Prieſts is very conſiderable, having the care of all the Prieſts under their Dioceſe or juriſdiction: theſe High-Prieſts make viſitations, and inſpect the lives and converſations of all inferior ones; and are to ſee that all things are conducted with decency and order; but this office of High Prieſt admits of tranſlation: the method of which is as follows; when a High Prieſt dies, the King cauſes another to be made in his room; and if the High Prieſthood is one of the beſt ſort, that is, a rich one, then a High Prieſt of a leſſer income will endeavour to to be tranſlated; but upon no other view: for I never could hear of any Biſhop who was tranſlated to leſſen his income. This mercenary way of proceeding has been the ſubject of much drollery among all degrees of people. Now if a Chriſtian High-Prieſt was tranſlated, in order to undertake a dangerous voyage to propagate the Chriſtian Religion in foreign countries, among a rude and barbarous people, then indeed tranſlation would be praiſe-worthy:

but it is now upon a level with a ſhopkeeper, who removes to another habitation, with a view of increaſing his fortune. This, my friend, is a true account of the tranſlation of the High Prieſts of England. They have likewiſe another way of getting money; which is, at the ſame time they are made High Prieſts, to hold a profitable benefice *in Commendam.*

THE Prieſts are the next in office, and many of them have good eſtates ariſing from their Prieſthood; and are generally very proud and covetous; they are ſo much addicted to pride, that they will ſcarce uſe people with common good manners, when they are ſollicited for favours; but the moſt fawning ſycophants themſelves, when they attend men in power, to get preferment in the Church.

THE Deacons are the loweſt degree among the Engliſh clergy; and many of them are a ſort of religious ſlaves; for the prieſts who get into favour with great men, get poſſeſſion of two, three, or ſometimes more livings; and give theſe poor wretches a trifling ſum to execute their office. This, Sir, is ſuch a bare-fac'd impoſition, ſuch a ſcandalous proſtitution of the very foundation of the Chriſtian religion, which I have taken a great deal of pains to ſearch into, that I have been often ſurpriz'd with what face it can be done. Thus the poverty of the inferior Clergy, and the pride, luxury and covetouſneſs of the rich, have caus'd the whole Prieſthood to fall under a general contempt; and of courſe religion, which has run into a vaſt

number

number of ſectaries and diviſions: and among the more learned and judicious part of the Engliſh people, the very name of Chriſtianity is almoſt forſaken, and *The Doctrine of Morality* is their darling Opinion. This, my friend, is the beſt account I can give you of the preſent ſtate of the Chriſtian religion in England, which is undermined by its very teachers, who flinch from the ſtructure they ought to ſupport: and when the pillars or ſupports of a building become rotten, the whole muſt inevitably fall to deſtruction: thus rotten and almoſt deſtroy'd is the Chriſtian Religion in England, and is become a common jeſt: the prieſthood is by the people call'd a good or bad trade, according to the profits the prieſts get by their office.

To ſpeak my ſentiments freely, the Chriſtian religion is at ſo low an ebb in England, that nothing but a thorough reformation of the Prieſts can ſave it from utter deſtruction. I do not pretend to the ſpirit of foretelling future events; but the nature and reaſon of things make this plain to demonſtration.

I will not trouble you with letters of too great a length, but entertain you with ſomething new and delightful. I have been a little indiſpos'd with a ſlight fever, but am now perfectly recover'd. I wiſh you health; and deſire you not to let time or diſtance leſſen your friendſhip for me, which I eſteem more than all the bleſſings of life; it is a happineſs the Engliſh people ſeldom enjoy, yet none more capable of noble and generous ſentiments: but

these good qualities are generally buried in self-interestedness, covetousness, and mean cunning; which are the destruction of a sincere and inviolable friendship. Here are numbers who make profession of an inviolable friendship, with no other view than making a property of a generous good-natur'd heart. This is treachery of the basest kind, and is a prevailing vice with those the English call KNOWING ONES.

I intended to conclude my letter before this time; but cannot pass over one cruel action of a dissembled friendship without observation.

YOU may remember I told you the uncertainty of tradesmens circumstances, which is verify'd in the following relation of two shopkeepers, who spent a large fortune very soon, through negligence and extravagance; a particular acquaintance of one of them was a good-natur'd man, and worth money; a bait was laid for him in the following manner: his pretended friend has a note of hand for value receiv'd given by his companion; but he has great occasion for present money, therefore desires of his honest generous friend cash for the note, which was accordingly done; and then both of them went off. These are called Note-Coiners; and some men, before their characters are blasted, wrong people of a great deal of money this way. Such stratagems, one would scarcely believe in the power of man to invent! But true it is. I remain

Your constant and undissembled Friend.

LETTER III.

SIR,

HAVING concluded my laſt letter with an account of the KNOWING MEN OF ENGLAND, I ſhall in this proceed to a farther deſcription of the city of London, which affords more matter, both for moral obſervations and amuſement than any city in the world. I left off at the deſcription of St. Paul's cathedral by the interruption I met with from its prieſts. But now to proceed: On the Eaſt ſide is a free ſchool for the education of youth in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew tongues, which is call'd St. Paul's ſchool.

THE South-ſide is inhabited by variety of trades belonging to houſhold ſtuff, as upholſterers, chair-makers, ſcreen-makers, *&c.* but the North-ſide is chiefly inhabited by bookſellers, and on account of their vicinity to this grand cathedral deal chiefly in theology: the bookſellers

for the moſt part live in cluſters; whereas the generality of other tradeſmen avoid living too near together, leſt their different intereſts ſhould prevent either from thriving. This city is likewiſe well ſtock'd with printers, who meet with good encouragement from the liberty of the preſs; and they perform their work with much beauty and expedition. Printing is attended with good and bad effects; for it both propagates vice as well as knowledge.

On the North-ſide is likewiſe a commodious building, call'd *The Chapter-Houſe*, where the Prieſts aſſemble, and conſult together concerning the ſettling religious diſputes, and regulating the church; but the King being their ſupreme governor, does not think it convenient to give this eccleſiaſtical council too much liberty; it being very much fear'd by the Engliſh people, eſpecially the Diſſenters from the Church of England, who are both numerous and rich, that if the prieſts had an unlimited power in eccleſiaſtical affairs, they would ſoon ſet the whole kingdom in a blaze. Theſe things having been well conſider'd by men of wiſdom and power, this eccleſiaſtical council is but a ſhadow. The Engliſh people, eſpecially the moſt learned and thinking, are of opinion, that prieſts of all religions are for graſping at power, and therefore are well pleas'd that the King maintains his authority in this point, and clips the wings of thoſe who would otherwiſe fly beyond the bounds of reaſon, or even humanity.

On the Weſt end is a great bookſeller's ſhop, and facing it a much greater toyſhop; for many of the Engliſh young gentlemen delight more in toys than books, and very juſtly acquire the character of being *Compleat Coxcombs*; there theſe butterflies with their ladies aſſemble to trifle away both their money and time. In and about the city of London are abundance of theſe trifling ſhops; from whence you may reaſonably conclude here are a great number of rich and trifling people to ſupport them.

Another great folly attends the Engliſh nation; for tho' its grandeur conſiſts in trade, yet the baſeneſs of many of the prime people is ſo great, that they will make a tradeſman undergo the greateſt diſtreſs and uneaſineſs, by not paying them their lawful demands; and give the labour of the induſtrious for preſents to Italian ſinging eunuchs.

When I am got out of London, I ſhall confine myſelf to the deſcription of places; but this city abounds with ſo many ſcenes worthy ſpeculation, that I cannot paſs them over unobſerv'd.

Facing the weſt end of St. Paul's cathedral is a priſon for debtors, call'd Ludgate, and is of great antiquity. This leads to Temple-bar, a place whereon are fix'd the heads of traitors, who are firſt hang'd, their bowels flung in the fire before their faces, their hearts taken out, and expos'd to the view of the ſpectators, then cut in quarters, and at the diſpoſal of the King, who formerly order'd them to be faſten'd to the

city gates: but of late years it has been thought ſufficient to ſtick their heads upon a high pole, and ſuffer their quarters to be buried, being on hot days very offenſive to the citizens.

It would take up much time, and make a large volume, to give you a deſcription of every particular relating to the city of London; but I cannot paſs over the moſt material, without making ſome obſervations worth remarking: that which now particularly attracts my attention is a building on the North ſide of London, which is the hoſpital of Bethlehem, but vulgarly call'd *Bedlam*; where are a great number of ſuch objects of pity as would melt a heart of flint, every one of which are depriv'd of their reaſon. The people of England in general are more ſubject to madneſs than any nation in the world; and it may very properly be term'd, *The Engliſh Malady.*

In this place is a ſcene worthy the obſervation of the greateſt philoſopher; here are ſome poor wretches who have loſt their reaſon by an exceſſive ſtudy in religious affairs, and generally fall into deep melancholy or deſpair. 'Tis a fatal miſtake to attempt the knowledge of things beyond human capacity; and inconſiſtent with the very nature of a divine being to expect a knowledge from mankind more than their faculties will admit of. Some again fancy they have ſin'd againſt the Holy Ghoſt, and diſtract themſelves with the notion of being abandon'd by God; at which their thoughts are hurry'd into horror and deſpair; and believe their doom is, *to be hung*

hung up by their tongues in hell, to be tormented by a fallen angel, call'd the Devil, with fire and brimſtone, and to ſuffer the acute pains ſuch a fire muſt create, never to be conſum'd. And ſome Chriſtians are of ſo wild an opinion, as to imagine this horrible ſentence is paſs'd, by a Divine Being, even upon children before they are born.

OTHERS again, by diſappointments and loſſes in trade, and the fear of poverty, become moſt exaſperate againſt all the world, themſelves, curſe their God, and thus die in the bitterneſs of their anguiſh. There are two cumbent ſtatues as one enters the great gate, which finely repreſent both melancholy and rage.

THERE are many other cauſes which produce madneſs; and the poor wretches here confin'd, entertain you, each with their different relations, and the cauſe of their confinent; but ſome are ſo outrageous, that they muſt not be ſeen, and who lie in chains to prevent their doing miſchief.

THERE are a great number of people in England who commit ſelf-murder; but many more would do it, were it not for this hoſpital, and the great number of private mad-houſes, by their confinement in which they are prevented.

NO people in the world have more occaſion for philoſophy than thoſe of England, yet none have leſs; for as the greateſt part of them depend upon the uncertainty of trade, which is known to be only a lottery, they ought to think of the worſt that can happen, and prepare themſelves

accordingly: but when their circumſtances run pretty ſmooth, they are too apt to live luxurious; and their common proverb is, *Not to make two wants of one.* Thus they live without calculating either their income or expences: what pleaſes their appetites they will have; they know not what ground they tread upon, nor do they endeavour to know: they find themſelves in mire and bogs, when they are dreaming of delightful gardens *in terra firma.* Thus when loſſes and diſappointments attack them, they are loſt in a wood, and ſtruck with amazement; they have no exalted notions of philoſophy to ſupport themſelves under the various diſpenſations of providence, nor any regard to the fundamental rules of their own religion, which afford them the greateſt comfort in a ſtate of poverty and diſtreſs: which is a plain demonſtration of what I before obſerv'd, that the Engliſh people make a fine ſhow in their churches, without any real devotion.

POVERTY is dreaded more by the Engliſh than any other nation; the very apprehenſion of it ſo intoxicates the minds of ſome, that they deſtroy themſelves, by deſpairing of the common neceſſaries of life, when in poſſeſſion of a plentiful fortune. A tradeſman of good repute told me, that he had once thoughts of deſtroying himſelf, when an apprentice, for fear he ſhould be unſucceſsful when in trade for himſelf. Thouſands in fact murder themſelves with anxiety; for tho' they do not directly make uſe of a rope, a piſtol, a knife, or leap into the water; yet they

they teaze and vex themſelves to ſuch a violent degree, that they fall into a complication of diſtempers, which cuts off their days like fruit blaſted with unſeaſonable winds. Between luxury and anxiety the greateſt part of the Engliſh people are deſtroy'd in the meridian of their years. It is an innate principle among them to dread poverty, tho' they live voluptuouſly; for they are in a manner begotten and conceiv'd in anxiety and trouble. But it is my opinion, that many ſelf-murders and miſeries might be prevented, were thoſe who poſſeſs large eſtates, and bury their money in iron graves, under the protection of innumerable locks and bolts, to be charitable in their life-time towards the diſtreſſed; it would ſave a great many unhappy wretches from diſtraction and ruin, and thoſe greedy miſers become worthy members to the commonwealth: but inſtead of theſe noble and generous ſentiments, ſordid avarice and oppreſſion take place, till death begins to ſtare them in the face; and then, quite terrified at the apprehenſion of approaching damnation, they in a hurry and confuſion of mind leave their fortunes to publick charities, when they know not how their money will be diſpos'd of, nor they poſſeſs it any longer. Rich people may relieve the real diſtreſſed with diſcretion, do much good without leſſening their fortunes, and make their relations happy after them, by leaving a good fortune and example.

IT is a ſad way of thinking for thoſe people whoſe religion denounces eternal miſery againſt

againſt the covetous and oppreſſors, that when they die, they may eſcape that puniſhment, by leaving their money to an hoſpital, and depriving their relations of what by the ties of blood they ought to enjoy. To relieve the diſtreſſed is a God-like virtue, when it proceeds from a generous and merciful diſpoſition; but it is no virtue to give when we can no longer keep.

IT is true, there are a great number of publick charities in England; but the fear of hell's puniſhments from a life either of vice or oppreſſion, is the real foundation of moſt of them.

BUT to return to the melancholy manſion of lunaticks; it is a magnificent building, in an airy ſituation, in a place call'd Moorfields; every thing in this houſe is kept decent and clean; and a convenient number of ſervants employ'd to take care of their unhappy charge, who are, according to the rules of the houſe, to exerciſe no cruelty.

AFTER walking here for ſome time, the firſt object I particularly remark'd, was a beautiful genteel young girl, about ſeventeen years of age, whoſe madneſs proceeded from an exceſs of pride and love: the firſt cauſe was evidently ſeen in every geſture; for ſhe walk'd with an extraordinary air of grandeur, and her eyes diſcover'd the ſcorn of her heart; but when her ſlighted affection gain'd the aſcendant, her pride fell like the tail of a peacock, and ſhe melted into tears and lamentations. I was very much mov'd at her misfortune: for the ſtruggles that nature muſt endure, when an extravagant ſlighted

love,

love, and intolerable pride are the antagoniſts, muſt certainly be very great. What ſurpriz'd me very much, was, that the people made ſport of her, and inſulted her loſs of reaſon; which, I muſt confeſs, ſhock'd me very much.

I made very particular enquiry how it happen'd that this young beauty was ſlighted in love; for I think ſhe was as fine a woman as ever I beheld. I was inform'd, that her father liv'd in a reputable manner, and had beſtow'd upon his daughter a very genteel education. She was not inſenſible of her charms, and being of a haughty diſpoſition, thought of nothing leſs than ſome man of figure for a husband. Her fortune indeed was ſmall; but ſhe imagin'd her beauty made ſufficient amends for her want of money. She likewiſe dreſs'd exceeding well; which is a method the young women make uſe of to allure men of fortune: but where one woman makes her fortune this way, I verily believe twenty are made whores. The young maid, who is my preſent ſubject, look'd down with ſcorn and contempt upon every man in an equal ſtation of life with herſelf; which wrong way of thinking I have obſerv'd to prove very prejudicial to the Engliſh women; for by this means they frequently overſtand their market, and die old maids, or take up with much worſe than they before had deſpis'd: and ſometimes, when they can get no body to marry them, they will rather ſubmit to be whores, than not be made as wiſe as their mothers.

It happen'd one day a gentleman of great fortune and family din'd at the Father's houſe; and he being a gay brisk man, in the flower of his youth, ſeeing a pretty girl at table, made ſeveral fine ſpeeches concerning her beauty; and complimented the father upon his having ſo beautiful a daughter. Her mother being dead, and ſhe the eldeſt, was houſekeeper and miſtreſs in chief; and lived without controul: In theſe circumſtances ſhe was left at liberty to act as ſhe pleaſed; ſhe began not to be ſo pert about the houſe, and left the family affairs unregarded. She devoted her time chiefly to reading romances, and talk'd of nothing but Love. The impreſſion this young gentleman had made in her mind, began now to ſpring up apace; and ſhe was ever talking of him. In ſhort her love grew to ſuch a pitch at laſt that ſhe could no longer conceal it: She imagin'd all this gentleman had ſaid to her was the pure effects of a tender paſſion for her; but he thought of her no more: For it is the cuſtom of the Engliſh young gentlemen to make fine ſpeeches to all the women they converſe with; and the weakneſs of the ſex, mix'd with ſome ſhare of vanity, makes them believe all theſe fine ſpeeches due to their beauty and merit; for none think themſelves ugly; and therefore believe any thing. This unhappy maid waited with impatience day after day, expecting her beloved to repeat his compliments and tokens of affection; but alas! all in vain: No longer able to contain the violent emotions in her breaſt; ſhe was at laſt compell'd to unfold the ſecret of her ſoul,

and write him a letter to declare the violence of her love.

THIS of itſelf was enough to make a proud woman diſtracted. But what can be imagin'd after the gentleman had read her letter, ſeal'd it up again, and ſent it back with this anſwer at the bottom; *I am ſurpriz'd at your impertinence!* Horror and deſpair ſeiz'd her at once, and ſhe could no longer maintain her reaſon. Her countenance was a mixture of rage and tenderneſs; pride and love were for ever ſtruggling, and had got entire poſſeſſion of her. A gentleman who was with me, wonder'd at the impeſſion this object made upon my mind; he ſeem'd to make a jeſt of me, and ſmil'd at my weakneſs, as he was pleas'd to term it. I told him that ſuch objects were deſerving pity, for that to be depriv'd of reaſon was the greateſt misfortune mankind could be afflicted with. Ah! ſays he, if people will be fools they muſt take it for their pains; a fine ſtory indeed, go mad for love! I repeat the expreſſions as near as poſſible; but it is impoſſible to tell you his manner of ſpeaking. We reaſoned and argued a long while upon this ſubject; but he ſtill inſiſted that as madneſs proceeded from indulging our paſſions, it deſerved no pity. But obſerve my dear friend, the revolutions of life, the very man, who condemn'd theſe miſerable objects as unworthy pity, fell at once into the ſame ſtate; he was a merchant, and his chief ſubſtance was at ſea; he receiv'd news of a ſhip's ſafe arrival, richly laden; and his expectations were upon the higheſt pinnacle: but alas! a ſtorm aroſe, drove

the

the ſhip to ſea; which ſprung a leak, and all the men and cargo were loſt. He had treated his friends upon his good fortune, looking upon all things to be ſafe. In the midſt of all his merriment news arrived of the ſhip's being loſt, which firſt caus'd a manifeſt ſinking of the ſpirits, a death-like countenance, and then turn'd to a raving madneſs, and he continued about a fortnight in that condition; during which time he rent his very heart to pieces, through the violence of his paſſion. I am ſomething particular in relating this to you, both for his want of compaſſion to an unhappy object, and a man's vain boaſting of his own ſteddineſs.

WERE you to ſee the number of Engliſh people confin'd for lunacy in this publick hoſpital and the private mad-houſes, you would be ſurpriz'd; but much more ſo, when you obſerv'd the actions of thoſe who perform their uſual buſineſs were little better than mad.

I could entertain you with innumerable inſtances of the mad people; but as the ſtory before related firſt ſtruck me, with its remarkable conſequence, I concluded it worthy your obſervation. But however in this Bedlam there are Kings, whoſe crowns and ſceptres are ſtraw, and whoſe dominions a dark room, and whoſe ſubjects a million of fancies; but I muſt tell you, my dear friend, that there are ſometimes real Kings as mad as theſe imaginary ones; whoſe dominions ought to be confin'd to a dark room, to keep them from doing farther miſchief. Here are again numbers of people who are continually building

building caſtles in the air; but many more of theſe builders out of Bedlam than there are in. In another place, you'll ſee a forlorn wretch who has over-ſtudied himſelf; there he ſits like one thunderſtrook and will ſpeak to nobody. A little farther you ſee a man laughing at every body, and by the ſatisfaction which ſeems in his mind, would make one almoſt wiſh to be mad. I had like to have forgot one very remarkable circumſtance, as I was leaning near one of the windows, making my obſervations, a good ſprightly man comes to me, ſir, ſays he, look at that man, pointing to one at a little diſtance, he's afflicted with the moſt ſurprizing madneſs you ever knew in your life; he'll be quite civil one day, and the next day be oblig'd to be lock'd up; and then he'll talk of hell and damnation, and the lord knows what ſtrange things; the wonderful effect of lunacy! The man ſeem'd to me by his dreſs a philoſopher, and an obſerver of mankind: But on a ſudden he was ſtrangely agitated, and ſaid, *I am call'd to the regions of immortality*; *I fly upon the wings of air*; away he runs, crying out, *ſee how I mount*, *I mount*, and left me almoſt aſtoniſh'd at the ſuddenneſs of his flight. The unfortunate gentleman whom I juſt told you of, who was with me, whilſt we were talking about the different objects which repreſented themſelves to us, told me a ſtory, which goes currently for truth, that about the time King James the ſecond left his kingdom, and the prince of Orange came in his ſtead, ſome gentlemen and ladies were in Bedlam to ſee theſe unfortunate people, when

when coming to the door of one of their rooms, the madman enquir'd of one of the gentlemen, who was an officer and in his military dreſs, who he fought for; the gentleman anſwer'd for the prince of Orange; then ſays the madman, I fight for King James, to the perdition of rebels; and bids him draw: the gentleman to ſee what he would do, or perhaps to oblige the ladies, drew his ſword; the madman takes a ſtraw, and ſays, now have at ye, and broke his ſtraw againſt the door. Hold, ſays he, I've broke my ſword; then he ſteps back, catch'd up his ordure veſſel, and flung it full upon the gentleman; now, ſays he, go and tell the prince of Orange, that you are a ſhitten ſoldier.

THE Charter-houſe is another noble charity; ſituated in the north weſt part of London. It maintains eighty decay'd gentlemen, viz.

GENTLEMEN by birth, but reduc'd to poverty.

GENTLEMEM who have born arms in the ſervice of their country, either by land or ſea.

GENTLEMEN that have ſerv'd in the houſhold of Kings and Queens; and thro' age or infirmities can ſerve no longer. And

MERCHANTS, who by piracy or ſhipwreck are become deſtitute.

A Free-School for educating forty poor boys, who are either bound apprentices to trades, or ſent to the univerſities.

THE

THE governrs of this hoſpital are generally gentlemen of the firſt character, and their number fix'd. The governors have a maſter under them, who is to be unmarried, above forty years old when he accepts the office, and is incapable of any other preferment, either in church or ſtate.

THE apartments are neat, the gardens pleaſant, and ſurrounded with a high brick wall.

HERE is a handſome ſquare, which takes its name from the hoſpital. It is the entire gift of one Mr. Sutton, whoſe life I think worthy your attention; and which I here ſend you. You will likewiſe by this be informed of the animoſities and hatred among the chriſtians.

THOMAS SUTTON, eſquire, founder of King James's hoſpital in the Charter-Houſe, was born at Knaith in Lincolnſhire, in the year of our Lord 1531, which was the four and twentieth year of Henry the eighth.

THOUGH he was born, rather to give honour to his family, than to borrow any from it; yet his blood was conveyed to him thro' many noble Saxon veins in Cheſhire, Lancaſhire, and Worceſterſhire: For notwithſtanding the Daniſh and the Norman conqueſts, yet in the time of the latter, we find one of this family ſheriff in thoſe parts, a perſon of a fair and honourable eſteem in the world: And this advantage a Man well deſcended has above all others, unleſs he degenerates, that the great actions of his anceſtors will not let him ſleep until he has out-done the original.

THE

THE courſe of this ancient family, like the river Alpheus, a while ran ſilently under ground, while at laſt it ſprang up in Lincolnſhire, in the time of Henry the Seventh, under Dudley, as notorious for cruelty and exactions, as our founder is for mercy and compaſſion.

HIS father was Edward Sutton, ſon of Thomas Sutton, ſervant to Edward the fourth. His mother was Jane Stapleton, the daughter of Robert Stapleton, eſquire, of the moſt generous and worthy family of the Stapletons in Yorkſhire. Anceſtors not ſo low, that his deſcent ſhould be a ſhame to his virtues; nor yet ſo great, but that his virtue might be an ornament to his birth.

MR. COX, afterwards Dr. Cox, almoner to King Edward the ſixth, and biſhop of Ely under Queen Elizabeth, brought him up three years at Eaton, four years in Magdalen and Jeſus Colleges in Cambridge; to each of whoſe children, ſurviving at his death, Mr. Sutton gave ten pound for a legacy: and as a thankful acknowledgment of the benefits he received from thoſe places of good learning, he nobly bequeathed five hundred marks to Jeſus college.

SOON after he was placed in Lincoln's-Inn, as a ſtudent, that he might want no part of learning becoming a gentleman. Not long after, almoſt tired with a ſedentary life, deſire of travel increaſing with his knowledge, he went to viſit foreign nations, and obtained the perfection of ſeveral languages.

HALF a year he tarries in Spain, two in Italy, one in France, and then he paſſes into Holland, and

and the Low-Countries; from whence after a year or two ſpent in the Italian Wars * (for he was at the ſacking of Rome, under the duke of Bourbon) he returned, accompliſh'd with experience and obſervation: Then he was admitted to the earl of Warwick and the earl of Leiceſter's Service. To the former he was a ſteward, to the latter a ſecretary; and to both he approved himſelf ſo able and faithful, that they declared him fit for more publick employments; as after appeared by their helping him to farm the Northern coal-mines, and that upon no other ſecurity than his own word.

He was quickly ſpy'd out by his wiſe and noble ſovereign Queen Elizabeth, one who knew where to beſtow her favours, and who deſerved her bounty; by her he was made maſter of the ordinance at Berwick, which office he enjoyed fourteen years; in token whereof there are two peices of ordinance carved in ſtone, and ſet upon the chimney-piece, in the great hall in the Charter-houſe.

Then he was choſen pay-maſter to the northern army; and afterwards one of the commiſſioners for the ſequeſtration of the Lands of the northern rebels; in oppoſition to whom he ſhewed himſelf a wiſe man in diſpoſing ſo advan-

* This ſeems to be a miſtake, for the ſacking of Rome was in the Year 1527, which was four Years before the Founder's Birth, who as is ſaid before, was born in 1531. See *Thuanus in libro primo*, where he ſays, *Eodem tempore* (ſc. 1527.) *Columnii a Cæſare inſtigati Romam occupant, & Clementem in Mauſolæo Hadriani obſident nec multo poſt totis viribus Romam item eſt duce Borbonio, & urbe impetu capta & direpta.*

tageouſly

tageouſly of the Berwick Forces: And a valiant man in his actions and conduct.

SOME years after he became victualler to the navy, and ſome Garriſons in the Low-Countries; one of which was Oſtend, which by the help of ſome fiſhermen, he relieved very ſtrangely, and to his own great advantage: To which town he left in his will one hundred pound.

LASTLY, he was a commiſſioner for prizes, under the earl of Nottingham, lord high admiral of England, who gave him letters of mart againſt the Spaniards, from whom he took a ſhip richly laden, worth twenty thouſand pounds.

HAVING by theſe profitable employs laid a foundation of a good eſtate, upon ſome miſunderſtanding between him and the northern nobility, he retires to London, to enjoy and improve it; where his riches increaſed, and came upon him like a tide, by the juſt arts and methods which he uſed.

HE brought with him to London the reputation of a mighty monied man, inſomuch that it was reported, that his purſe returned from the north fuller than Queen Elizabeth's Exchequer: Here he was made a freeman, citizen, and girdler of London.

HIS payments were thought as ſure as her penſions; the readineſs of his money, and the fairneſs of his dealing, laid the grounds of a mighty reputation; for now he is look'd upon by all men: he has the firſt refuſal of the beſt bargains of ſales and mortgages, which were more frequent in a dead time of money, as that was.

HERE

HERE poſſibly he got acquaintance with ſeveral lords ſervants, whom he remembers in his laſt Will, and piouſly relieves them.

HE was alſo reſorted to by the citizens for money; and indeed Mr. Sutton became the banker of London: Being called upon ſo much, that he was perſuaded to help others too, in the putting out of their money. Once he thought of ſetting up a bank in London, like that in Amſterdam; where people might take up money at ſo moderate an Intereſt, as ſhould not eat out their labour, nor waſte the heart and life of trade, by making the care, pains, and ingenuity of the borrower, ſweat and toil for the ſole benefit of the lender: Therefore he lodged a hundred pound in ſome honeſt mens hands to lend to the poor weekly or monthly, by ſmall ſums upon good pawns, while he lived; and when he died, he left a thouſand pound to the chamber of London, to be yearly lent to ten young tradeſmen without uſe. Beſides, he ordered his executors to abate half a year's intereſt to all his debtors, when they call'd in his money.

THUS did this great man wax rich and known, which made him to ſome evil-minded perſons, the object of envy: and he finds not the ſhadow of that charity in the world, which he ſhew'd in ſubſtance and reality.

SOME urge that he ſerved himſelf to much upon the hopes many had entertained of being his heirs: by receiving thoſe gifts, which ſome covetous friends, *miſerunt in hamo*, by eaſily purchaſing thoſe lands which they expected ſhould

return

return with intereſt. I do not underſtand the unreaſonable preſumption of men, to name and adopt themſelves their neighbours heirs, and if they confirm it not, they ſhall be branded with injuſtice: The wiſdom of the ſerpent is as well required, as the innocency of the dove. He that ſtrives to outreach his friends, is juſtly caught in his own ſnares.

OTHERS ſtrongly believe he was the ſubject of Ben. Johnſon's mirth: which, if it were true, is no real ſcandal to this good man, when all things juſt and honourable, ſacred and of good report, are ſhamefully expoſed to the lewd affronts of a bold and licentious ſtage. Beſides, 'tis probable the poet never intended what they think. For in that age ſeveral other men were pointed at, and who was the true perſon, was then a matter of doubt. If the poet deſign'd to injure the fame of Sutton, he was firſt of all an ungrateful wretch, to abuſe thoſe hands which afforded him bread, for he allowed him a conſtant penſion: And ſecondly, he diſowned his very hand writing, which he ſent to our founder, in vindication of himſelf in this matter.

IN the late unhappy times *, another ſort of enemy appears, and will hardly ſuffer this pious benefactor to lie quiet in his grave: The revenue made a great noiſe, and prov'd ſomething melodious to the ears of the commanding party; therefore they endeavour to find out a way to

* The rebellion in England, in the reign of King Charles the firſt, when the people cut off that King's head in form of juſtice.

ſubvert

ſubvert the houſe, foundation and all. No better plea than the old popular argument, uſed before againſt his ſacred majeſty King Charles the firſt of ever bleſſed memory; Popery! Popery! 'Tis preſently whiſper'd about, *That Sutton died a papiſt: that the houſe was built upon naughty popiſh ground; that all the walls were full of tapers and croſſes; that it was deſigned to jeſuitical ends and purpoſes; that there was a great vault underneath, which reach'd almoſt to Iſlington, and (for ought they knew) it might be full of powder and malignants, plots and ſuperſtition, all conſpiring againſt the good old cauſe.*

At this time Edward Creſſet, maſter of the hoſpital, by his intereſt in that party, interpoſed and laid that ſtorm, for which he received publick thanks from the lords the governors, *Anno* 1660.

This freak hardly deſerves conſideration; eſpecially proceeding from that ſort of men. Mr. Sutton was too well known for this project to take effect: He was an honeſt and religious Proteſtant, conſtant and exemplary upon all occaſions at the publick ſervice of God; regular and ſtrict in family duties, accuſtom'd to prayer, reading the ſcriptures, and very ſollicitous in his choice of a holy and learned chaplain: His thoughts were uſually heaven-ward; in his ejaculations frequently deſiring God, *That as he had bountifully bleſſed him with a plentiful eſtate, ſo he would be pleaſed to direct him in the diſpoſal of it.* This he has been often over-heard to ſay, walking in his garden. His thoughts were not only divine, but his uſual company were miniſters of God's word; for

there is no writing ſcarce of his, to which there is not the hand of a divine or two: or elſe he viſited the fatherleſs and widows, the impotent and indigent, and in a great meaſure kept himſelf unſpotted from the world.

Now that which ſeems moſt wonderful is this, that men profeſſing the proteſtant religion, ſhould endeavour to pull down one of the greateſt monuments of the reformed religion, it being the common argument whereby we uſe to prevent the papiſts extravagant relations of good works.

Had he been a red-letter man, Mr. Knott the Jeſuit (in his anſwer to Dr. Potter's book, call'd Charity Miſtaken) would never have vented this following reproach: *But he muſt be crucified between theſe two:*

Do your hoſpitals deſerve ſo much as to be named? Have you any thing of that kind, in effect, of particular note? ſaving the few mean nurſeries of idle beggars, and debauched people; except Sutton's hoſpital, which (as I have been informed) was to receive no profit till his death: Who alſo died without children, brother, ſiſter, or known kindred; ſo that peradventure, it was eſcheated to the King, &c. At length he ſays, *He could tell us of the Annunciata at Naples, which ſpends three hundred thouſand crowns, viz. above eight thouſand pounds* per Annum, *feeds and cures one thouſand ſick perſons; nurſes and entertains three thouſand ſucking children, &c.* Then he gives a hint of another famous hoſpital in Rome, called *Sancto Spirito.* To both which inſtances Mr. Fuller does as reproachfully reply, by ſaying, *That the infamous diſeaſe*

diſeaſe of Naples might well cauſe the erection of ſo mighty a ſtructure; and as for that at Rome, the wonderful plenty of unlawful Iſſues, children baſely born, did require ſo great a receptacle.

I queſtion not but both are to blame, for where-ever we find any ſparks of goodneſs and piety, though they lodge in the breaſt of a Turk or Jew, Papiſt or Proteſtant, yet it is but common juſtice to afford every man is due praiſe.

'Tis eaſy alſo to diſcover the jeſuit's miſtakes: For firſt, Mr. Sutton intended to reſide upon his benefaction, as maſter of it; though it pleaſed God ſooner to take him to himſelf to admit him into the Land of Promiſe.

Then his kindred were known far and near, for Simon Baxter, ſon of his ſiſter Dorothy, endeavoured to overthrow the ſettlement of the eſtate, as being next heir at law.

His other objections concerning penuriouſneſs, ſhall be anſwer'd in another place. Here now I could to the purpoſe recriminate, but that I am ſenſible it is diſingenuous and uncharitable; and widens the breaches of Chriſtendom.

Let the froward world endeavour to defame and calumniate, to beſpatter all that is good and laudable; yet certainly, we ought to riſe up in the vindication of him, who taught us to ſpeak, to proclaim his charity by which we live; to commend that temperance which affords us affluence and plenty; to admire his ſelf-denial, who was to do little leſs than a miracle, to feed a multitude.

THERE are few such usurers who design to receive their interest in heaven; few such benefactors, whose comprehensive bounty embraces all mankind, from the cradle almost, to the grayest head; from the tender and helpless youth, to the most impotent and infirm old age.

HAD our founder gained that by unlawful Usury, which he disposed to pious uses (which is a sin almost to suppose, unless we had evidence) yet restitution is the best sign, and the greatest testimonial of sincere repentance; and where particular restitution cannot be made to the parties wronged, God requires it should be given to relieve the poor.

THUS Zaccheus, Luke xix. 8. upon his repentance and conversion, made an overture of restoration to all that he had wronged, nay fourfold, and gave half of his estate to Souls that were in want; this is recorded for our example.

BUT this accusation can lay no hold on Mr. Sutton; for his estate was gotten by trade and offices, and never laid out for interest until his years admonished him to quit his business, and leave it for younger and more active people, who could not undertake it unless he lent them money: And what injury did he to any man to let him have that at 6 *l. per Cent.* which he was able to improve to 30 or 40 *per Cent.* Besides in his latter time his money was chiefly laid out upon annuities.

IT was observed, that when he lent money, he would enquire how it was spent, and if he found that it was laid out for necessaries, food, and

and raiment, he never could be perſuaded to take any uſe. No doubt but he roſe by the ſteps of thrift and frugality, by being diligent in a lawful calling; nor was he prodigal becauſe he intended to be magnificent.

OBSERVE this ſtory which is told of his parſimony: Whilſt he was buſied in foreign trade and commerce with other nations, he contracted a familiar acquaintance with a merchant, his companion in travel; who, though he did equal Sutton in trade, yet had not ſo well learned the elements of thrift: For when on a journey he called for his pint of wine, Sutton called for a gill: And for every other liquor doubled the quantity. At length this merchant dies, and by computation leaves an eſtate of fifty thouſand pounds; which report coming to Sutton's ears, he ſaid, *Alas! I always pitied him, I thought he would die no rich man.*

THIS was, in the perſon of his friend, to correct the ſurfeits and extravagancies of a profuſe age: For a rich man is no ways happier than another man, but that he has more opportunities miniſtred unto him of doing more good than his neighbours. Therefore Diogenes asked of the thrifty man but a half-penny; of the prodigal a pound; the former he ſaid might give him often, but the latter would ſhortly have nothing to give. Good husbandry is the fuel of liberality. He choſe rather to deny himſelf in his ſuperfluities, to retrench vain expences, that he might be able to refreſh others in their day of ſorrow; not to

rake from others wants, that he might riot, and rejoice in their miſeries.

THE fame and credit of our generous founder, brought him to ſhare in many offices at the court, and at the Cuſtom-houſe, where they had occaſion for his money: For when an induſtrious man has once rais'd his fortunes to a conſiderable pitch, he then grows rich apace, by ſharing in the conſtant labours of many of the under ſort of men.

HE was a ſharer in ſeveral publick farms, a partner in foreign adventures, eſpecially in Muſcovy and Hamburgh; inſomuch that he had no leſs than thirty agents abroad.

THUS he toil'd and wrought, as if he coveted all; and gave away, as if he deſired nothing: He looked upon himſelf as the ſteward of the great God, thriving as all ſhould, not for himſelf but others: Unwilling to laviſh what he could ſpare from his own occaſions, on pride or ambition, the luxury and vanity of a trifling world, when God appointed it to be the portion of his fellow-creatures.

MR. SUTTON, according to the methods of wiſe men who mean to be wealthy, appointed his ordinary expences to be but half of his incomes, when they were at the loweſt; and when they increaſed he ordered a third part, and at the higheſt, he determined to be charitable to an eighth part, or thereabouts, while living: When his eſtate was two thouſand pound *per Annum*, he deſigned one thouſand for himſelf and family, in houſe-keeping and board-wages; two or three hundred pounds for charity, four hundred pounds

for

for law and phyſick, and many other neceſſaries; the reſt for extraordinary emergencies, not thinking it any way diſhonourable, to have a perſonal inſpection over his own affairs.

He was happy in a wife, as well as eſtate, which was advanced by her near twenty thouſand pounds. She was the Lady Popham, and ſo enjoyed the wealth of great rich Popham. He had no iſſue by his beloved wife, for God Almighty had deſigned him a numerous train of children, to be adopted into his family, and nurſed up tenderly, as if they came from his own loins.

His addreſſes were manly and taking, his diſcourſe clear and full of eloquence: He did not interrupt his reſolutions with fearfulneſs and too much caution, nor deprive himſelf of the great inſtrument of action, truſt or belief. Theſe good qualifications, with the glad circumſtances of a large fortune, and a long age, near eighty years, in a peaceable and flouriſhing reign (after the troubleſome days of Queen Mary, and before the late unhappy rebellion) could not but conſpire to make him conſiderable.

The benefices that were in his patronage, he dearly bought, that he might beſtow them upon men fit to be burning and ſhining lights in the church of God; one of which divines was Dr. Fiſh, of Hallingbury in Eſſex, who has often teſtified Mr. Sutton's integrity in this point: He received his preſentation of him, *Anno Dom.* 1610. and heard him ſay, *That he never deſired any*

thing of a minister of God's Word, but his Prayers, and the due performance of his office.

He was a good parishioner where he had land and no living; as well as a good patron where he had both: Encouraging all people by his early presence at church; doing good offices, as repairing churches, and decently adorning those holy places, *where God has said his name shall dwell.*

He was remarkable for the compassion and relief he bestowed on the widows and children of good ministers: And this more particularly incited to by the excellent examples he had seen of charity of this nature in the Low-countries.

He was very temperate, moderating his natural appetite by abstinence; he was sober and vigilant, and moderate in all his recreations: The outward ornaments of his body were clean and becoming, neither starch'd or curious, neither careless or nice. These were not so properly the comforts of his soul, as the sweetness of his life; hence proceeded health of body, clean strength, a good complexion, and a graceful and affable disposition.

As a master, he was careful and diligent to enquire how his servants performed their labours, for the dust of the master's shoes is the compost to improve the soil: And his love appeared to his servants by making a comfortable provision for them; for at this day many of the tenants to the house, are descended from those who were servants to the founder; and the common reason they give of their good bargains, is, *That they hold them as rewards of their ancestors service.* Yet it

lies

lies in the power of the governors to advance the rent, which in some places has been done, though with great moderation; and this rather to quicken than dishearten the tenants.

It is not intended by this character of Mr. Sutton, that he should be free from all blemish; that he should be another Bonaventure, in whom, some affirm, Adam did not sin. All things have a mixture of corruption here below, nay, it is riveted in our very nature: The fairest figure must have some flaws, and the most beautiful image some unhappy strokes; therefore he, as all other men, was subject to the like passions: Whatever were his failings, common charity should endeavour to hide his infirmities, who was content to spread his garments over so great a multitude.

After a num'rous train of worthy and religious actions, in a good old age, within one of eighty years, he died at Hackney, in the county of Middlesex, Decem. 12. *Ann. Dom.* 1611. He had for some time laboured under a feverish distemper, which wasted him away, and brought him into a lingring consumption; this attended with frequent and sharp fits of the stone, and violent assaults of the cholick, made him surrender up his soul to that God, on whose power the life of all depends.

From Hackney he was removed Dec. 16. to Dr. Law's house (one of the executors mentioned in his will) in Pater-noster-row, and from thence was conveyed to his grave with all the pomp and solemnity, which might become the funeral of so great a man: Six thousand people attended his

corps through the city, whose passage lasted six hours; until they came to Christ-church, where his body lay till his foundation at the Charter-house was finished (which was about three years) *Anno Dom.* 1614. from whence he was in a decent manner removed, Decemb. 12. in the aforesaid year: Upon which day is duly kept an anniversary commemoration, a sermon is appointed with a gratuity to the preacher. The first who preached on that occasion was Mr. Percival Burrell, Minister of the house, upon Luke vii. 5. *He hath built us a Synagogue*: The sermon was printed *Anno Dom.* 1629.

AFTER sermon the auditors repair to the publick hall, where the bounty and magnificence of our noble founder is gracefully set forth in a latin oration, by a youth of the foundation, whom Sutton has taught to speak.

THUS have we brought our founder to his place of rest; where, in the chapel, on the north-side is a noble monument, erected by his overseers, with this following inscription on a fair marble-stone, in golden letters.

Sacred to the glory of God.

In grateful memory of Thomas Sutton esquire, late of Castle-Camps, in the county of Cambridge, at whose only cost and charges this hospital was founded and endowed with large Possessions, for the relief of poor men and children: He was born at Knaith in the county of Lincoln, of worthy and honoured parentage: He lived to the Age of seventy nine years, and deceased Decemb. 12. 1611.

THE

THE Charter-house is undoubtedly a noble foundation for one man; but I have been informed it has been abus'd, by admitting gentlemen's sons, who have no just plea for partaking of charity. But by the best enquiry I could make, I found most publick charities to derogate from their original intent. I remain

Your constant Friend.

LETTER IV.

SIR,

IN my last letter I gave you a very particular account of a private man; but the charity he gave being of great repute in England, I concluded it well worth your reading; I shall now go on with an account of some more hospitals and publick buildings.

HERE are many other publick charities worth noting, particularly one near the Charter-house, call'd

call'd Chriſt's-hoſpital, founded by King Edward the ſixth, who dy'd very young: Children are either put apprentices to trades, ſent to ſea, or the univerſities, as beſts ſuits their capacities. And this hoſpital has produced men of great character and learning, as likewiſe many eminent merchants and navigators.

NEAR this is St. Bartholomew's-hoſpital, for the cure of ſick and lame people; adjoining to it is a building for the governors to diſcharge and admit patients, &c. fit for the palace of a King. A report goes current, that the devil was in this place when it was building; for that the neighbouring windows were broke all to pieces by ſtones ſeen to fly from it, when upon the ſtricteſt ſearch no perſon could be found any where in the place.

ST. THOMAS's-HOSPITAL, on the ſouth-ſide of the river Thames, is an hoſpital of much the ſame nature as St. Bartholomew's.

NEAR this is Guy's-hoſpital for incurables: Mr. Guy rais'd his fortune from a very low ſtate of life, to be one of the greateſt money'd men in the city of London; and left ſeveral good legacies to his relations, beſides this hoſpital.

A great number of children both girls and boys are likewiſe provided for by pariſhes or ſocieties, who are cloath'd according to the will of their benefactors; they are call'd *Charity Children*; and many of them have better education than the children of their benefactors; but few will own the place of their education, when they get out of livery:

HERE

HERE is likewiſe another charity call'd, *The London-Workhouſe*, in Biſhopſgate-ſtreet.

BRIDEWELL, near the river Thames, was formerly a royal palace; but now a publick work-houſe; where abundance of young men ſerve their apprenticeſhips. It is a houſe of correction for ſtreet walkers, of whom I gave you ſome account before. Here they are brought in their fine clothes to beat hemp, and receive the correction of the houſe. It is likewiſe a priſon for diſorderly apprentices.

BESIDES theſe, almoſt every pariſh has a publick charity-building, which is rather compulſion than charity; for the pariſh officers have a power of raiſing money for the relief of the poor. Theſe are call'd *Workhouſes*, and are under the care of a maſter and miſtreſs: And ſubject to the inſpection of pariſh officers. Theſe places are a ſort of priſons, where you cannot have admittance to ſee any perſon without a particular licence; gentlemen and tradeſmen who are reduced to neceſſity, and left deſtitute of friends, are here very charitably made companions for beggars and blackguards!

THE governors of theſe places are very often an illiterate ignorant ſet of men, and know not any difference between a perſon of good family and education; and the greateſt ſcoundrel in nature. And to be confin'd to keep company with thoſe people who are one's averſion, diſturbs the mind as much, as to be cramm'd with nauſeous food does the ſtomach. Therefore rather than ſuffer ſuch confinement, and be compell'd to keep ſuch

ſuch diſagreeable company, many have choſe to be ſtarved, or at once deſtoy'd themſelves.

HERE are likewiſe excellent publick grammar-ſchools, viz. Weſtminſter, St. Paul's, Merchant-Taylors, and Mercers-hall; as for private ſchools both for grammar and qualifying youth for trade and buſineſs, they are almoſt innumerable.

THIS city is likewiſe adorned with many publick buildings, ſome of which I have before-mentioned, viz. ſuch as belong to united traders.

SION-COLLEGE, near Bethlehem, is a very commodious building, tho' in a remote part of the city. The inſtitution of this college is upon a noble foundation, viz. *For the glory of God, the good of his church, for redreſſing inconveniences in it; maintaining truth in doctrine, and love in converſation one with another.* But ſuch foundations are generally too good for the ſuperſtructure.

GRESHAM-COLLEGE, founded by Sir Thomas Greſham, who built the Royal-Exchange; the deſign of this college is for improving youth in divinity, the civil-law, aſtronomy, geometry, rhetorick, phyſick, and muſick; and in term-time lectures are read every morning in latin; and in the afternoon in Engliſh; and any gentleman may be admitted.

IN this college the famous Royal Society, founded by King Charles the ſecond, kept their aſſemblies; but removed, on ſome differences between them and the profeſſors in the college. It is now kept in a place call'd Crane-court, in Fleet-ſtreet, where they have built a repoſitory for their curioſities.

THE

THE ROYAL SOCIETY, is compoſed of the greateſt body of men of quality and learning in moſt European countries, of any academy in the world; they have made great improvement in natural and experimental knowledge; the progreſs they make is publiſhed to the world in their monthly tranſactions.

THIS ſociety is govern'd by a preſident and twenty council, and any gentleman may be admitted a member, by giving ſome proof of his capacity to the preſident and council.

THE curioſities of this ſociety are not ſo great as ſome others; but they have not yet had time enough to make the fineſt collection; the greateſt part of their rarities are put up into boxes, and the birds and beaſts hang round the room.

IN the boxes are ſeveral mummies and anatomical matters, relating to men and beaſts; ſerpents and birds; eggs and deſcriptions of neſts; all ſorts of fiſhes, inſects, woods, branches and leaves; nuts and fruits; roots, moſſes and muſhrooms; plants; animal bodies putrify'd; corals and other marine productions; gems; gold, ſilver, copper, tin, lead and iron, antimony, mercury, and other metals; with ſalts, ſulphurs, and earths.

HERE are ſeveral things concerning chemiſtry; inſtruments relating to natural philoſophy; to the mathematics and mechanics; with other curioſities: But I don't remember I ſaw here any curious pictures; yet no art deſerves the inſpection of the ingenious more than painting.

THIS

THIS ſociety has at preſent a fine library; and its members are ſo much increaſed by men of fortune and learning, that I believe it will in time be the beſt in England.

FOR regulating their affairs, they have a treaſurer, who receives and pays what money they order; a ſecretary, who receives all letters of information, projects, inventions, and propoſitions that are ſent from all parts; as likewiſe a regiſter, or recorder, who enters all their experiments and proceedings.

THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, is a very beautiful and magnificent building, conſiſting of a ſquare court, into which one enters by a ſort of a triumphant arch. Above the gate is the theatre for manual operations in ſurgery: there is a cupola over this theatre, which commands a proſpect of the whole city.

THE theatre has ſix circular ſeats one above another, there is a particular ſeat for the preſident, for him who reads the lecture, and for the operator.

OVER the hall door is a fine figure of King Charles the ſecond, with this inſcription: *Utriuſque fortunæ exemplar ingens. Adverſis rebus Deum probavit: proſperis ſeipſum. Collegii hujuſce*, 1682.

THIS college is govern'd by a preſident, four cenſors, a treaſurer, a regiſter, and fifty two fellows.

THE cenſors have power to ſearch apothecaries ſhops, and prove the medicines. Here the poor have advice gratis; and medicines from their diſpenſaries.

GUILD-

GUILDHALL, is the London town-houſe, an antique building, almoſt in the center of the city. Here the Lord mayor, aldermen, and common council meet to regulate affairs relating to the city. In this hall are kept ſeveral courts of law, as likewiſe the chamberlain's office, whoſe power is very great in relation to ſuits between tradeſmen and apprentices, granting of freedoms, &c. The great hall is adorn'd with the pictures of ſome kings and queens, and ſeveral judges at full length in their proper habits. In this place the citizens chuſe their members of parliament.

THE Exciſe-office is in the Old-jury, near Guildhall, it is govern'd by ſeveral commiſſioners, it has likewiſe a treaſurer, accomptant, auditor, comptroller, and many other inferior officers.

THIS is the moſt extenſive office in England; there are ſuch a number of inferior officers, called Exciſemen, belonging to it, that they come at the knowledge of the private affairs of moſt of the families in England; for they have power to ſeize goods upon the roads upon ſuſpicion of not paying duty; and to enter and examine peoples houſes at diſcretion.

THE people of England have an utter averſion to exciſes; and when an attempt was made to put wine and tobacco under the inſpection of the exeiſe, I was in London; and thought the inhabitants would have taken up arms in oppoſition to it; ſuch was their fury and reſentment; and that law was dropt.

I NEVER saw people make more rejoicings in my life, than were upon this account; the monument was illuminated, bonfires, ringing of bells; and all demonstrations of joy that could be shown upon some great deliverance; and this example was followed by the different counties in England; and became a general thanksgiving. You must know, when the city of London are resolved unanimously to oppose any measures they think destructive to trade, all other powers are cautious of what they are about: For to attack the trading body of the nation, is to assault its foundation. The trading men of England being in general rich and brave, and will suffer no power upon earth to deprive them of their lawful gains, or invade their privileges. The grand rebellion in England would not have run to such a height as it did, if King Charles had not disoblig'd the city of London.

I will give you the reason why the citizens opposed this law in so violent a manner; by the law of England no person can be found guilty of any crime, without being try'd by twelve men, who are called a jury. These men must all agree in their opinion before a prisoner can be convicted; they are lock'd up together in a dark room, without fire, candle, or any necessaries of life till they all consent to bring in the prisoner guilty or not guilty. The judge and jury very often disagree; for when it is the opinion or partiality of a judge to find the prisoner guilty, if the evidence does not appear sufficient to the jury; the judge may hold his tongue; this is a valuable privilege

to

to Engliſhmen; and if a priſoner has any cauſe to ſuſpect that any of the jurymen will give their verdict with partiality, he has a right to challenge them, that is, to object againſt them.

Now in relation to exciſes, the commiſſioners are the judges; and they are try'd by their accuſers. I leave you to determine whether ſuch privileges are worth contending for; and what diſgrace it would be to part with what their anceſtors have with ſo much bravery and judgment ſecur'd.

THE expulſion of the exciſe ſcheme is annually obſerv'd; and a chief magiſtrate of the city of London met with the greateſt indignity and ridicule for attempting to oppoſe the populace in their rejoicings. His houſe was aſſaulted, and all his windows broke to pieces by ſtones of a very large ſize; for though the Engliſh people ſhow much duty and reſpect to their governors, yet when they are thoroughly exaſperated, they ſhow the greateſt indignities to the greateſt perſons. This has been their rule from the earlieſt account of time I can meet with in their beſt hiſtorians.

COMPANY-HALLS are buildings belonging to particular trades, where they aſſemble the day a Lord-mayor takes poſſeſſion of the city; many of theſe halls are grand and magnificent buildings, ſeveral of the London companies having very large eſtates.

I HAD almoſt forgot to tell you, that there is an office depending on the general Poſt-office, which conveys letters to all parts of the city ſeveral times a day, which coſts no more than one penny; and for the convenience of the inhabitants,

habitants, there is ſcarce a ſtreet any where in or about this great city, but has an office for taking in theſe letters; and notwithſtanding this great convenience, there are porters at the corner of almoſt every great ſtreet, who get a comfortable livelihood by carrying goods and letters.

HERE are ſeveral colleges or inns of court for the ſtatute and common law, and one for the civil law.

THE college for the civil law is called Doctors-commons, a noble building, divided into ſeveral courts, where the doctors of the civil law, with their proctors reſide.

HERE is kept the court of admiralty for trying cauſes betwixt nation and nation, in relation to trade; as likewiſe a ſpiritual court, which is independent upon the common and ſtatute law of the nation.

NEAR Doctor's-commons is the heralds office, where the records of the coats of arms of all the families and names in England are kept, when granted, and on what account.

IT is govern'd by the Earl Marſhal of England, who has under him three kings at arms; viz.

GARTER, whoſe buſineſs wholly relates to the ſovereign and the order of the garter, and the ranks of the nobility, who inſiſt much upon precedency.

CLARENCIEUX, whoſe office relates to all gentlemen under the degree of a baron, on the ſouth-ſide of Trent.

NORROY, beyond Trent to Scotland.

THERE

THERE are six heralds and four purſuivants under theſe kings; and ſix proctors are allowed to plead cauſes relating to coats of arms that are try'd before the earl Marſhal, or his deputy.

HERALDRY is here obſerv'd with great ſtrictneſs; a duke, a marquis, an earl, a viſcount have each of them diſtinct coronets, a deſcription of which I gave you in my firſt letter. No perſon dares put theſe marks of diſtinction on their ſeals or coaches, but ſuch as are of that degree, on ſevere penalties, which is under the immediate inſpection of this office.

WHEN a king or queen is crown'd, the peers wear their coronets and their robes, in which they make a very magnificent appearance.

THE nobility in general give motto's to their arms; and any gentleman may give a motto or device; but not that of the eldeſt branch of the family, without their conſent.

THE mottoes of the nobility allude either to their names, undertakings or exploits; the duke of Schomberg, who came to England with the prince of Orange, gave for his motto, *quo fata vocant*, WHERE DESTINY CALLS ME; and the lord Cutts, who was made a peer for his ſervice in the army, had for his motto, *ſanguine & ſudore*, BY BLOOD AND SWEAT. This lord Cutts, on account of his deſperate exploits, was nick-nam'd, *The Salamander*.

THE duke of devonſhire's motto is, *Cavendo tutus*, their names being Cavendiſh.

THE heralds office is finely diſpoſed with a pav'd court, and has a library worth obſerving.

HERE

HERE are likewiſe ſeveral inns of court or colleges for the ſtudy in the common law.

THE TEMPLE, ſo called from its being the monaſtery, of the knights templars. It reſembles a town rather than a college, it being very nobly built, on the banks of the Thames, and has a fine garden, whoſe walls are waſh'd by the tides of that great river. Here are two large ſquares, beſides ſeveral ſmall paved courts, with chambers for the gentlemen who come here to ſtudy.

THERE are five gates to this college, which are ſhut up at very regular hours. In this temple no perſon, whether ſtudent or not, can be arreſted for debt, or taken out for any crime, without the permiſſion of the heads of the colledge.

HERE is a regular table kept for the ſtudents; but they are not obliged ſtrictly to attend it. The church is very noble, and the portico full of ancient monuments of knights templars.

LINCOLN'S INN, is likewiſe a noble large college, it has a very grand ſquare in which is kept the ſtamp office. There is a fine large garden, full of ſtatues, and a terras walk, which commands Lincoln's-inn-fields, which will be one of the fineſt places about London.

TO Lincoln's-inn there is a chapel, the windows of which are finely ſtain'd, and look very beautiful.

GRAYS-INN, near Lincoln's-inn, is likewiſe the repreſentation of a town, here being two noble

noble large ſquares, a large garden with a Terras walk, which commands a fine proſpect.

HERE are ſeveral other inns of court, or colleges; as, Bernard's, Staple's, Furnival's, Thavy's, Lyon's, Symon's, Clifford's, Clement's and New-inn, which are at a ſmall diſtance one from the other, moſt of them being in or near Holborn.

WESTMINSTER-ABBEY, the cathedral of the city of Weſtminſter; but you may remember I told you London and Weſtminſter were generally taken for one city; but they are nevertheleſs under quite different governments. London is govern'd by a Lord mayor; who, during his mayoralty, is ſtiled *Right honourable*, a court of aldermen, and the common council or the repreſentatives of the whole city; but Weſtminſter, by its government reſembles more an univerſity than a city; for here are no mayors or aldermen; but it is govern'd by the dean and chapter of the Abbey-church of Weſtminſter, who chuſe a high-ſteward out of the principal nobility; who has under him an underſteward and high bailiff.

THE Abbey-church of Weſtminſter is generally the repoſitory of the aſhes of the kings and queens of England, is a very reverend pile of building; and ſtrikes with a ſort of awe when one firſt enters. It contains ſuch a number of royal monuments, as well as thoſe of other great men, that it would make a large volume to give you a particular deſcription of them all, with the inſcriptions upon them.

KING

KING HENRY the seventh of England join'd a very sumptuous chapel to this abbey; which contains a great number of royal monuments; and here Don Pedro de Ronquillo, who was ambassador from the court of Spain to that of England, lies unburied; his corpse being arrested by his creditors, and kept till redeem'd by his relations.

IN the body of the church are abundance of fine monuments, among which is that to the memory of the great Sir Isaac Newton, a man who had the character of being the greatest philosopher of this age.

THE monument of Admiral Shovel, which I think a very odd one, he being in a large Perriwig, finely comb'd out, and his body partly naked; for the tokens of mature age are made very visible.

IN this abbey lie the bodies of Kings and Queens, peers and peeresses, divines, poets, musicians, physicians, warriors, and politicians; all make one common dust: Here is an epitaph on Mr. Prior, who was both a poet and politician, which is a very just satire on human dignities.

Heralds and courtiers by your leave,
Here lie the bones of Matthew Prior,
The son of Adam and of Eve;
Let Bourbon or Nassau go higher!

BOURBON and Nassau, being two great families in Europe are here shown the insignificancy of grandeur when life is gone; and that all mankind are originally from one descent. WEST-

WESTWARD from the abbey, on the river side, is a fine street like a key, which is very pleasant on account of its situation; this leads to a pleasant walk where are gardens on one side, and the Thames on the other; and much frequented by nightingales, who sing most delightfully; from this place is a view of the palace of the arch High-priest of England; near which is a place call'd Vaux-hall, where the people partake of the evening pleasures, in delightful walks and gardens, in which is the finest musick, very advantageously dispos'd to strike the ear and empty the pocket.

HERE I will conclude, being somewhat tir'd and fatigu'd; and my spirits faulter'd; what I write must be therefore but dull and insipid,

Your's, with Sincerity.

LETTER V.

SIR,

IN this letter I intend to give you an account of the government of the city of London, which is a very regular one, and resembles the govern-

ment of the whole nation; for as the kingdom of England is under the direction of king, lords, and commons; ſo the city of London is under the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council. It is divided into twenty ſix wards, each of which is govern'd by its alderman, out of which a lord mayor is choſen every year. Here are likewiſe two ſheriffs, whoſe power is very conſiderable; and before an alderman can be choſen lord mayor, he muſt ſerve the office of ſheriff.

THE lord-mayor of London is generally a knight, is ſupreme judge of all cauſes within the city; and the two ſheriffs execute juſtice under him. He appears in publick in great ſtate, with his ſcarlet robes, the ſword and mace carried before him, with his proper officers attending him. His coach is very grand, and when he appears abroad, a ſtranger would take him for the King. His ſword-bearer, huntſman, and water-bailiff are places of very great profit. He keeps a very magnificent table, and the day he takes upon him the mayoralty, is honour'd at dinner with the moſt principal officers of ſtate, and nobility in the kingdom, and ſometimes by the king himſelf. His ſword-bearer's table is likewiſe a very good one, being allowed a ſufficient ſupport to maintain it. A ſtory is related by an engliſh hiſtorian, that Sir Henry Picard, a lord mayor of London, entertain'd at dinner four kings at one time, viz. of England, Scotland, France, and Cyprus, and after dinner won moſt of the four kings money; which had like to occaſion a quarrel betwixt him and the king of Cyprus.

THE

THE solemnity of the lord mayor's being ſworn into his office is very grand; the twelve companies of London, out of one of which he muſt be choſen, and others who have barges, accompany him to Weſtminſter, with trumpets ſounding, and other muſick, and ſtreamers with the royal arms, and thoſe of the ſeveral companies flouriſhing; and guns firing from either ſhore of the river Thames, both going and coming. After his return from Weſtminſter, he makes a grand proceſſion thro' the city, attended by the aldermen in their robes, the ſheriffs, and the companies of London in their livery gowns. He is preceded by a fine body of city guards, who make as grand an appearance as the beſt of the Kings forces, and throughly underſtand the military diſcipline.

THE lord mayor is ſupreme judge of the court for trying criminals, which is kept in a place called the Old-baily. This is one of the faireſt courts in the world, and gives a priſoner all the opportunity to clear himſelf. The witneſſes againſt the priſoner are very ſtrictly examined by the judge; who ſits both to do juſtice to the King and the Subject, and takes particular care to prevent any malicious proſecutions; and a ſervant has as much juſtice as the maſter. If a proſecution appears to be carried on with a malicious view, the court grants a copy of the indictment, by which means the priſoner has damages granted in common law. I heard my ſelf a tryal of two ſervants, when they were both acquitted; and the woman ſervant had a

copy of her indictment granted, notwithstanding her master was prosecutor, who was a very considerable man, have a large estate, and the title of a baronet.

LONDON affords so many different objects, that I think I cannot leave it; but however I am at present got into St. James's Park, which is a sort of refreshment from the thick air of the city. Here the nobility and gentry walk to get them a stomach before dinner, as likewise in the evening; the royal palace of St. James's, being here situated, it must of course abound with people. It is much frequented on Sundays by tradesmen and their wives and children, who come here to take an airing. But one thing I must observe to you, that when I sat down upon any of the benches to rest my self, I generally found more French than English; or else that the natives had forsaken their own language, and took delight in talking that of their neighbours. But the liberties the English people enjoy, invite abundance of strangers to settle here, and get their livelihood.

HERE is a fine walk call'd the Mall, half a mile in length, at the upper end of which is the house of the Duke of Buckingham; but now that title is extinct, the last dying a minor. Near the middle the dutchess dowager of Marlborough lives; which favour of building a house there was granted to the late duke, on account of the great military services he had done his country. This lady is very antient and rich, and

devotes

devotes the greateſt part of her life to acts of charity.

FROM the Mall is a proſpect of Weſtminſter-abbey, and the banquetting houſe; the former is the place where the Kings are crowned, and the latter where King Charles the firſt was taken out and beheaded. Which occaſion'd me abundance of reflections concerning the inſtability of human affairs. It put me in mind of the wiſe Solon, who told Cræſus, when he ask'd him who was the happieſt man, *That no man could be happy before death*; which Cræſus afterwards experienced when he was taken priſoner by Cyrus, and ſentenc'd to be burnt: And King Charles the firſt of England experienc'd the ſame, when his head was upon the block. But when Kings are in the height of glory, ſurrounded by a ſplendid court, they can ſcarcely believe ſuch an alteration in human affairs to be poſſible.

Your's with Fidelity.

LETTER VI.

SIR,

I SHALL in this letter give you ſome farther account of Weſtminſter, and then I think to take my leave of the town. The old palace of the Kings of England I have taken no notice of; which tho now it is intirely neglected by the royal family as a palace; yet the High-court of parliament and other courts of juſtice are kept here. The entrance into this palace is thro' a great hall, without any pillars to ſupport its roof, which is of Iriſh oak, and buttereſſed at the top very artfully.

As you enter this hall on the right, is a pair of ſtairs which leads to the court where the barons of the Exchequer ſit to decide all cauſes relating to the revenue; and equity.

ON the left is another pair of ſtairs which leads to the office of Exchequer, where the publick money of the nation is received and paid.

NEAR

NEAR the middle of the hall, on the right, is the court of Common-pleas, which decides cauſes betwixt man and man.

AT the upper end of the hall, on the right, is kept the court of Chancery; and on the left that of the King's-bench. The firſt for trying cauſes in equity, and the latter for criminal cauſes, and pleas of the crown.

IN this hall the Kings and Queens entertain their nobility at their coronation.

AT the upper end of it on the left, is a pair of ſtairs which leads to the apartments above.

THE firſt room call'd the court of requeſts, is convenient for thoſe who have any buſineſs with either houſes of parliament; and as you go ſome ſteps higher is the houſe of commons, which is a very compact room, with little apartments adjoining for the convenience of the Speaker and other members

NEXT the court of Requeſts is the painted chamber, where conferences are held between the two houſes of parliament upon extraordinary affairs; and here is a gallery for the lower houſe to come up without being crouded.

THE furthermoſt room leads through a paſſage to the houſe of Lords, hung with fine tapeſtry, repreſenting the Spaniſh Armado in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

BEHIND the office of the Exchequer, towards the Thames, are genteel apartments for the chief officers belonging to it.

THE Auditor of the Exchequer has a noble apartment adjoining to, and under the houſe of

commons, with a fine garden opening to the Thames.

THE four tellers, whose employment is both honourable and profitable, have likewise their several apartments.

THIS whole building was once the palace of the Kings of England; and the several courts and apartments before mention'd declare its ancient grandeur.

ADJOINING to it is Westminster-abbey before mention'd.

I SHALL now give you an account of some particular houses of the ancient and principal nobility, with the most remarkable places of their abode; and then conclude my letter.

SOMERSET-HOUSE, in the Strand, has been in possession of the Crown ever since its first founder, the Duke of Somerset was beheaded. King Charles the second added a very grand apartment; which is a Dowry-house for ever for the Queens of England. There are to this house very pleasant gardens, situated on the banks of the Thames, which makes them very pleasant, and much frequented by genteel sort of people. It was in this house that the Chevalier de St. George, who set up for King of Poland, resided in the reign of Queen Anne: And the masquerades here made by the Duke d'Aumont, then Ambassador from France, were suppos'd to be done for the Chevalier's diversion.

THE SAVOY, so called from its being built dy Peter Earl of Savoy. Eleanor, wife of Henry the third, bought it of the fraternity of Mont-

joy,

Joy, and gave it to Edmund Earl of Lancaſter her ſon, whoſe poſterity had it for a ſeat, till Henry the ſeventh made it an Hoſpital. It had once particular privileges; and its neighbourhood is at preſent call'd *The Duchy liberty*; where no perſon could be arreſted; but thoſe privileges are now loſt, and it has no other than enjoying, within the walls only, the privileges of other royal palaces.

It is a large ſquare building. The French proteſtants have the uſe of one of the churches in its ſquare, and the reſt is govern'd by a Maſter and four divines, whoſe allowance is in the manner of colleges. Here are likewiſe many apartments for lodging foot-ſoldiers.

Exeter-house, built, by the eldeſt ſon of the famous Cecil, lord Burleigh, great miniſter of ſtate under Queen Elizabeth, who is ſaid to have reſolved, that no one ſhould ſee him die; and notwithſtanding, when he lay very ill, and at the point of death, there were ſeveral people in the room, he talk'd to them, till he found his laſt breath departing; and turning himſelf, died without any one's ſeeing him. Exeter-houſe now makes an Exchange; but you may remember I told you, that the Royal Exchange in the upper part was in a manner deſolate, and all other Exchanges undergo the ſame fate; the milliners, &c. who chiefly inhabited them, being remov'd to great ſhops in the moſt capital ſtreets.

Northumberland-house, is a noble ſquare court, with a garden running down to the

river ſide, and the whole a princely and noble building.

LEICESTER-HOUSE, in Leiceſter-ſquare, but generally call'd Leiceſter-fields, was the reſidence of the preſent King of England, when Prince of Wales, and is a very magnificent palace. In this ſquare are the houſes likewiſe of ſome of the principal nobility and gentry in England. The middle of it is planted with trees, and railed round, which affords a ſort of rural proſpect to the houſes.

BUCKINGHAM-HOUSE, which I mention'd before, is moſt delightfully ſituated in the upper end of St. James's Park, fronting the Mall; and behind the houſe is a fine garden, a terras-walk which affords a beautiful proſpect, and a little park with a pretty canal.

THE court yard which fronts the park, is ſpacious, in which is a round baſon of water lin'd with free-ſtone, with the figures of Neptune and his tridents; the offices are commodious; the ſtair-caſe is large and finely painted; and in the hall is a marble ſtatue of Cain ſlaying his brother Abel.

THE apartments are noble, the furniture rich, and adorn'd with many fine pictures. The top of the houſe is flat, and commands a proſpect of London and Weſtminſter; and the country for many miles round.

THE figures of Mercury, Secrecy, Equity and Liberty, front the park, and the four ſeaſons the gardens. There are four inſcriptions on this houſe, but two very particulary ones well

well adapted; that fronting the park is, *Sic siti lætantur lares*; thus the houſhold gods delight themſelves: and fronting the garden, which commands the country, *Rus in urbe*, The country in a city.

THE father of the late minor who died being a man of great knowledge, I think his epitaph, wrote by himſelf, is worthy your peruſal.

Pro rege ſæpe, pro republica ſemper.
Dubius, ſed non improbus, vixi.
Incertus morior, ſed inturbatus.
Humanum eſt errare, & neſcire,
Chriſtum adveneror, Deo confido,
Omnipotenti, benevolentiſſimo.
Ens entium, miſerere mei.

Thus Engliſhed.

Much for my KING, but for my COUNTRY more.
DUBIOUS I liv'd, but was not profligate.
I die UNCERTAIN, yet I die RESIGN'D.
All human race is ignorant and frail.
CHRIST I adore, IN GOD ALONE CONFIDE,
Who is almighty and moſt merciful.
O thou FIRST CAUSE and principal of beings!
Pity my frailties, and have mercy on me!

MARLBOROUGH-HOUSE, built by the greateſt General of the age, the late duke of Marlborough, whoſe prudence and ſucceſs in war made

mede him famous all over the world, is a grand edifice, but more confin'd than that of the Duke of Buckinghamſhire. The court is very ſpacious and finely pav'd. In this houſe, the battles of Hochſtet, Blenheim, with the taking marſhal Tallard priſoner, are finely painted; as alſo Prince Eugene of Savoy, the Duke of Marlborough, Lord Cadogan, and Mareſchal Tallard, to the life.

THE KING'S PALACE at St. James's joins to this; it has no ſuch great appearance for the palace of a prince; it conſiſts of two ſquares or courts, and the rooms of ſtate are majeſtick and large; every thing within is much nobler than would be expected from its outward appearance.

THERE are abundance of genteel ſquares in the city of Weſtminſter.

GROSVENOR-SQUARE, is a very noble one, inhabited by the firſt nobility, and I think the moſt pleaſant place about London.

HANOVER-SQUARE, is likewiſe a fine pleaſant place, inhabited by ſome of the firſt rank.

St. JAMES'S-SQUARE, near the park, is a fine place, has a baſon in the middle, and the houſes very magnificent.

GOLDEN-SQUARE, is not very large, but well built, rail'd in, and planted in the middle with trees.

SOHO-SQUARE, is large and regular, and began by the Duke of Monmouth, who was beheaded for rebelling againſt King James the ſecond of England. In the middle is the ſtatue of King Charles, the Duke of Monmouth's father.

ther. It is planted with trees, with neat walks rail'd round.

COVENT-GARDEN-SQUARE, is a noble Piazza, in this ſquare is a very fine church, as likewiſe a play-houſe; much reſorted to by the Engliſh people; but their dramatick pieces are now much neglected, and the moſt ridiculous nonſenſe introduc'd; ſuch as Harlequin turn'd into an old woman ſelling pears; Harlequin coming out of an egg; Harlequin running away with mens wives; but the moſt diverting ſcene is to ſee a number of Engliſh cuckolds applauding Harlequin when he runs away with a man's wife; in ſhort Harlequin is ſuch a hero among the Engliſh, that nothing can be done without him; he kips, dances, runs about, but ſays nothing; all's done by dumb ſigns and motions: This Harlequin wears a fool's coat, a deform'd face, a wooden ſword, and has ſuch a number of wooden actions, that all theſe theatrical performances are fit for nothing but to divert wooden heads.

THERE are three other theatres in London and Weſtminſter, one in Drury-lane, a place very remarkable for whores and pick-pockets; one in Goodman's-fields near the tower of London; one in the Hay-market, which is much the leaſt, and was once a French theatre.

IN the Hay-market is an Italian theatre, which the Engliſh prodigiouſly encourage: This place is much frequented by the moſt principal people, and half of them don't underſtand what they hear. It is one of the prettieſt banks for

the

the performers you can imagine; for here they have *ready money* for *Fa-la-la's*; beſides many fine preſents. And when a new *Fa-la* arrives with any character, it is the moſt unfaſhionable, ungenteel, ill-bred thing imaginable not to make him a preſent; the ladies are not fit for converſation till they have done it. I don't doubt, my friend, but you'll think this prepoſterous; but it is very true. For, as I obſerv'd to you before, they'll ſooner make a tradeſmen go without his lawful demands, than lie under that terrible ſcandal, of not making a preſent to a famous new Italian ſinger; and theſe *Fa-la's* are ſometimes made companions for many of the greateſt perſons in the kingdom, tho' I don't tell you the wiſeſt. I leave you to make what obſervations you think proper.

BLOOMSBURY-SQUARE, ſituated on a high ground, in an open free air, has ſeveral genteel houſes and inhabitants.

RED-LYON-SQUARE, is but ſmall, neither is its appearance genteel; there is near it a much finer place, call'd Ormond-ſtreet, and very well inhabited.

QUEEN'S-SQUARE, is adjoining to Ormond-ſtreet, and commands a fine proſpect, of the level ground on the north ſide of London, as likewiſe of two villages about four miles diſtance, call'd Highgate and Hampſtead, ſituate upon two healthy pleaſant hills, where the citizens of London reſort for the recovery of their healths.

LINCOLNS-

LINCOLNS-INN-FIELDS, near Holborn is an open airy place, and is now making one of the fineſt ſquares in England, if not in the world. I cannot give you a particular account of it, till finiſhed; but there is no doubt the inhabitants, being generally people of honour and fortune, will not be wanting in making it as compleat and grand as ſuch a noble ſpot of ground will permit, and render it the wonder and amuſement of future ages.

THERE are ſeveral villages about London, where the citizens have lodgings, ſuch as Hackney, Dalſton, Shakklewell, Kingſland, Newington, Kentiſh-town, &c. but Iſlington is the chief, which is about a mile in length, and the greateſt part of the houſes are lett into lodgings: This place is a perfect hoſpital to the city of London, where the people are carried to die when the doctors can do no more for them.

THROUGH this village the New-river runs, which ſupplies the greateſt part of the cities of London and Weſtminſter with water. This river is but a ſort of guttur, yet by its conſtant ſupply from its ſpring and the river Lee, ſupplies thoſe cities beyond what can be imagin'd. It riſes at Ware in Hertfordſhire, about twenty miles from London; but by its various turnings and windings, thro' meadows and gardens, hills and dales, makes about ſixty miles. It is in ſome places a leaden ceſtern only, ſupported with ſtrong pieces of oak. The New-river is really a very great curioſity, tho' but little regarded for ſuch; but well known for the profits

fts arifing from it. It ends at a rifing ground near London, which commands a profpect over the city, to the counties of Surrey and Kent.

I fhall in my next give you fome general obfervations, and then bid farewel to London for fome time, to partake of the recreations the country affords. I am,

Your's without Diffimulation.

LETTER VII.

SIR,

LONDON is the moft open and free place for converfation, I believe, of any in the world. Here religion, law, politicks, and every fubject is debated upon with as much freedom as if every citizen was a peer or fenator of the realm. The actions and meafures of the Government are criticiz'd upon, and cenfur'd every week in the publick news-papers. A prime minifter of ftate is no more regarded than the meaneft

meaneſt ſervant; and all his actions are very nicely obſerv'd. No treaty or alliance is made but what comes under the inſpection of theſe weekly politicians; and ſometimes they are wrote by men of the greateſt character and capacity in the kingdom. Every adminiſtration has its advocates and oppoſers; and the people are always jealous of the prime miniſter, leſt he ſhould at one time or other betray the liberties. The Kings of England are ſeldom level'd at, but their prime miniſter always. He is watch'd with a thouſand eyes, and is in continual jeopardy, both for fear of diſgrace from his maſter, and the cenſure of the people: When a prime miniſter falls, it is all at once; for no ſooner is he abandon'd by the King, but he falls a ſacrifice to the people; and from the higheſt dignities ſinks into the loweſt diſgrace, and very often nothing but life can make atonement for his paſt actions. But the prodigious power and profits a prime miniſter enjoys, are ſuch alluring baits, that there are never wanting numbers of people who endeavour to ſteer at the helm.

THE preſent prime miniſter of England is a man of good parts, but gives little encouragement to ingenious men; he his very much hated by the people; the common fate of prime miniſters!

THE coffee-houſes are the general places of reſort for politicians, being ſure to ſee all the news-papers there. The ridiculous nonſenſe that one hears from ſome, is enough to ſurfeit a man of ſenſe; for every cobler in England is a politician, and looks upon himſelf, as an Engliſhman,

to

to have a right to cenſure or approve all actions of ſtate, as they appear for the good of the commonwealth, or deſtructive to it. I have ſeen ſeveral of the very loweſt claſs of mankind ſtanding round a cobler's-ſtall to hear the learned ſolemender debate upon every paragraph in a political news-paper, and his hearers become friends or foes to the government, according to the doctrine deliver'd from the POLITICAL COBLER.

THERE are ſeveral houſes adjacent to the city of London, famous for both religious and political diſputes; and I muſt confeſs I have ſometimes heard very nice arguments upon both ſubjects; by men of ſome learning, but more capacity and experience. There one may hear the chriſtian religion extoll'd by ſome as the happieſt tidings ever declared to mankind; by others condemn'd, as introducing ſtrife, malice, and effuſion of blood. They talk without the leaſt reſerve.

THE common diſcourſe of theſe places would be eſteemed the greateſt blaſphemy in ſome chriſtian countries, and the diſputants puniſh'd with the moſt exquiſite torments.

THE moſt noted of theſe places are near Clerkenwel, as THE LONDON-SPAW, THE CHERRY-TREE, SADLER'S-WELLS, SIR JOHN OLDCASTLES, LORD-COBHAM'S, with many others of leſs note. It is worth the while of any foreigner to viſit theſe houſes ſometimes: for a man can go no where to form a more general knowledge of the capacities, manners, tempers, religion and politicks of the Engliſh nation than at the fore-mentioned places.

THERE

THERE is a round table in a publick room, where every man drinks ſeparately ; yet all in one company, here a man may begin a diſcourſe, or make objections, as he thinks proper ; and conſidering the diverſity of opinions, every man behaves with abundance of decorum and good manners, however different their ſentiments. And if any one behaves rudely or indecently, he is excommunicated the general company, and no one takes notice of him. There is in ſhort, more matter of ſpeculation in theſe places than can be imagin'd by a perſon unacquainted with them.

HERE are an infinite number of clubs, at taverns, coffee-houſes, punch-houſes, and ale-houſes. White's chocolate-houſe in St. James's-ſtreet, on account of its genteel accommodations, and its vicinity to the court, is much frequented by the great men of the nation, who have a club there.

CLUBS or ſocieties, for recreation and amuſing one's time in an evening, are in great eſteem from the firſt peer, to the pooreſt labouring man ; theſe clubs have orders for relating the behaviour and manners of the members ; and if they cauſe diſturbances, or refuſe to obey their articles or laws, they are excluded.

BIRTH-NIGHT-CLUBS, are much in vogue, where every member on his birth-night ſpends ſomething extraordinary, or gives a ſmall treat.

HERE are ſeveral other clubs or ſocieties ; as the Free-maſons, who are very numerous, many of whoſe members are of the firſt rank.

THE

THE HUM-UMS, the GEORGIANS, the HURLOTHRUMBO's, the LUMBER-TROOP, with many others: But the Free-maſon's club is the moſt noted of them all, tho' much hated by the Engliſh women on account of their falſe notion of it; for they think every man is ſubject to an unnatural luſt to make himſelf a compleat member: But they are compos'd of ſome of the beſt accompliſh'd men in England, for learning, bravery, and manly friendſhip.

THE LUMBER-TROOP, are pretty numerous, conſiſting chiefly of citizens; they give a great ſway in publick elections; and very often turn the balance.

I have now, I think, ſent you the moſt general account of the city of London, I can; if any thing hereafter occurs worth communicating, I ſhall not fail to do it; and am,

Your Friend, and Servant.

LET-

LETTER VIII.

SIR,

I set out from London the day after I sent you my last letter, from Bishopsgate-greet, which as I observ'd to you before, is the road to Cambridge. The first village I remark'd was Tottenham-high-cross, about four or five miles from London, situated on a hill, with abundant of pleasant houses, built in a very commodious genteel manner. From hence I soon reach'd Theobalds, in Hartfordshire, once the seat of King James the first, and the place where he dy'd. It is a pleasant house, finely situated, near the river Lee, which divides Essex from Middlesex and Hertfordshire.

From hence I soon arriv'd at the town of Ware, which is of no great consideration, and remarkable for a great bed being there, and is the

the place from whence the new river, which ſupplies the city of London with water, has it riſe.

I met with nothing remarkable till I arriv'd at Cambridge, the way to which from Ware is very bad travelling.

THE town of Cambridge is very incommodiouſly ſituated, being low and dirty; and the houſes but very indifferently built; but it being near a river, and abundance of marſh lands, it affords much recreation, both for fiſhing and fowling, to the ſtudents of colleges and the townſmen.

THE univerſity and town are two diſtinct corporations, and there are two repreſentatives in parliament for each of them. They have their ſeparate privileges; but when a mayor is choſe he takes an oath to conſerve and preſerve the privileges of the univerſity.

THE colleges in this univerſity are very commodiouſly built for the reception of the ſtudents, who are kept under very regular diſcipline, as to eating and drinking, hours for ſtudy, going to bed at night, and riſing in the morning. The ſcholars are ſeldom permitted to go into the town; and when they have leave to go, are oblig'd to return to their reſpective colleges by nine a clock at night. They are carefully watch'd by their officers, call'd proctors, choſen every year, whoſe buſineſs is to inſpect the behaviour of the ſcholars. After college hours, they have power to ſearch all publick houſes, and puniſh whoſoever they find, without diſtinction.

THIS

THIS keeps the ſcholars intent upon their ſtudies, and prevents many diſorders their headſtrong youth would occaſion in the town; for in both the univerſities of Oxford and Cambridge, there is a ſort of inbred animoſity between the ſtudents and the tradeſmen.

THIS univerſity is governed by a chancellor, who is always a peer of the realm,

A high ſteward,

A vice chancellor, who is choſen out of the heads of the ſeveral colleges every year.

EVERY college has its particular independent governor.

EVERY kind of learning has its profeſſors; as Divinity, Law, Phyſick, Mathematicks; Hebrew, Arabick and Greek; Aſtronomy, experimental Philoſophy, and Caſuiſts; here are perſons of learning and capacity choſen every year to read lectures; Rhetoric, Logic, and the Mathematics.

THE profeſſors of Divinity, Law, Phyſick, and Mathematicks, are obliged to read to their ſtudents four days every week, beſides the tasks of the ordinary profeſſors in each college; and if the ſcholars neglect their lectures, they are confin'd and puniſhed.

IN this univerſity a youth muſt ſtudy three years before he can be admitted a batchelor of arts, and muſt anſwer all matters propoſed to him by any maſter of arts or others. But here I muſt obſerve to you, that ſome ingenious young men are put back thro' malice, by a maſter's propoſing ſome puzzling queſtion, which in conſcience and

and reaſon, can't be ſuppos'd poſſible for a young ſtudent to anſwer; and if anſwer'd, is of no real ſervice: And this ſometimes proceeds from ſome ſmart joke or pun, which has been put upon an old crab of a maſter. But theſe men, above all others, ought to be guided by reaſon, not paſſion or reſentment; and attribute any ſuch ſallies of wit to be the effect of a ready genious uncultivated, and not a deſign to injure or inſult any one. But age has its foibles as well as youth.

AFTER a young ſtudent is admitted batchelor of arts, he muſt continue his ſtudies three or four years more, before he can arrive to be maſter of arts; and many years more before he can be admitted to the degree of a doctor.

THIS univerſity has ſixteen colleges, ſome of which, moſt worth remarking, I will give you ſome account of.

JESUS-COLLEGE, was founded by Malcolm IV. King of Scots, earl of Cambridge and Huntingdon, in honour to a French Queen, call'd St. Ranegundis, wife to Lothair, King of France, in regard to an inviolable alliance between the French and Scots; he endow'd it for a nunnery out of the third penny he received from the county of Cambridge by inheritance.

THE lands of Cambridge being in proceſs of time forfeited, the nuns were forced to leave the houſe; and Henry the ſeventh of England converted it into a college in honour of St. Ranegundis, and put it under the protection of the biſhop of Ely.

IT hath receiv'd many benefactions; it has a provoſt, ſixteen fellows, and twenty two ſcholars; and chiefly educates clergymen.

KING'S-COLLEGE, was founded by Henry VI. and its conſpicuous and venerable chapel ſtrikes one with admiration in entering the town.

THIS college chapel is a very long and large room, without any pillars to ſupport its roof; and its choir adorned by King Henry VIII. has exceeding fine carv'd work in wood; and the glaſs painting adds a great beauty to it.

THE whole building, roof and all, is of free-ſtone, with the crown, coronet, and other enſigns of honour of the houſe of Lancaſter, curiouſly cut in ſtone in ſeveral places, its founder being of the houſe of Lancaſter.

I think it an amuſement not unworthy your peruſal, to ſend a copy of the founder's, King Henry the ſixth's will, which ſhews the greatneſs of his deſign.

The will is as follows:

AS touching the dimenſions of the church of my ſaid college of our Lady and St. Nicholas of Cambridge, I have deviſed and appointed, that the ſame church ſhall contain in length two hundred and eighty eight foot of Aſſiſe, without any iſles; and all of the wideneſs of forty foot. And the length of the ſame church from the weſt end unto the altars, at the choir door ſhall contain one hundred and twenty foot, and from

 the

the provoſt's ſtall unto the Grece, called *Gradus Chori*, ninety foot, for thirty five ſtalls on either ſide of the ſame choir, anſwer to LXX fellows, and ten prieſts conduits, which muſt be *de Prima Forma*. And from the ſaid ſtalls unto the eaſt end of the ſaid church, twenty two foot of Aſſiſe: Alſo a Rere doſſe bearing the rood loft, departing the choir, and the body of the church, containing in length forty foot, and in breadth fourteen foot.

THE walls of the ſame church to be in height ninety foot, imbattelled, vaulted, and chare-roofed, ſufficiently butteraced; and every butterace fined with finals.

AND in the eaſt end of the ſame church ſhall be a window of nine days; and betwixt every butterace, a window of five days; and betwixt every of the ſame butteraces in the body of the church, on both ſides of the ſame church, a cloſet, with an altar therein, containing in length twenty foot, and in breadth ten foot, vaulted and finiſhed under the ſoil of the iſle windows. And the pavement of the church to be enhanced four foot above the ground without; and the height of the pavement of the choir, one foot and a half above the pavement of the church.

AND the pavement of the altar three foot above that.

AND on the north ſide of the choir a veſtry, containing in length fifty foot, and in breadth twenty two foot, departed into two houſes beneath, and two houſes above; which ſhall contain in height

height twenty two foot in all, with an entry from the choir vaulted.

And at the weſt end of the church a cloyſter-ſquare; the eaſt pane containing in length one hundred and ſeventy five foot, and the weſt pane as much.

The north pane two hundred foot, and the ſouth pane as much; of the which, the deambulatory thirteen foot wide, and in height twenty foot to the corbill-table, with clear ſtories and butteraces with finals, vaulted and embattelled; and the ground thereof four foot lower than the church ground.

And in the middle of the weſt pane of the cloyſter, a ſtrong tower, ſquare, containing twenty four foot within the walls; and in the eight, one hundred and twenty foot to the corbill-table and four ſmall turrets over that, fined with pinnacles; and a door in the ſaid cloyſter inward, but outward none.

And as touching the dimenſions of the houſing of the aforeſaid college, I have deviſed and appointed in the ſouth-ſide of the ſaid church a quadrant, cloſing to both ends of the ſame church; the eaſt pane whereof ſhall contain two hundred and thirty foot in length, and in breadth, within the walls, twenty two foot: In ſome panes middle, a tower for a gate-houſe, containing in length thirty foot, and in breadth twenty two foot, and in height forty foot, with three chambers over the gate, every one over the other.

AND on either side of the same gate four chambers, every one containing in length twenty five foot, and in breadth twenty two foot; and over every of these chambers, two chambers above of the same measure, or more, with two towers outward, and two towers inward.

THE south pane shall contain in length two hundred and thirty eight foot, and in breadth twenty two foot within, in which shall be seven chambers, every one containing in length twenty nine foot, and in breadth twenty two foot, with a chamber, parcel of the provost's lodging containing in length thirty five foot; and with a chamber in the east corner of the same pane, containing in length twenty five foot, and in breadth thirty two foot; and over every of all these chambers, two chambers; and with five towers outward, and three towers inward. The west pane shall contain in length two hundred and thirty foot, and in breadth within twenty four foot; in which, at the end towards the church, shall be a library, containing in length one hundred and ten foot, and in breadth twenty four foot: and under it a large house for reading and disputations, containing in length forty foot; and two chambers under the same library, each containing twenty nine foot in length, and in breadth twenty four foot. And over the said library, a house of the same largeness for divers the wardrobe-stuff of the same college.

IN the other end of the same pane, a hall, containing in length one hundred foot, upon a vault

vault of twelve foot in height, ordained for the cellar and buttery; and the breadth of the hall thirty ſix foot, on every ſide thereof a bay-window.

And in the nether end of the ſame hall, towards the middle of the pane, a pantry and buttery, every of them in length twenty foot, and in breadth ſeventeen foot; and over that, two chambers for officers.

And at the nether end of the hall, towards the weſt, a goodly kitchen. And the ſame pane ſhall have inward two towers, ordained for the ways into the hall and library: And in every corner of the ſaid quadrant ſhall be two corner towers, one inward, and one outward, more than the towers above rehearſed. And at the upper end of the hall the provoſt's lodging, that is, to wit, more than the chamber for him above ſpecify'd; a parlour on the ground, containing thirty four foot in length, and twenty two foot in breadth; and two chambers above of the ſame quantity. And weſtward cloſing thereto, a kitchen for him, a larder-houſe, ſtables, and other neceſſary houſings and grounds. And weſtward beyond theſe houſes, and the ſaid kitchen, ordained for the hall, a bakehouſe, a brewhouſe, and other houſes of office; between which there is left a ground ſquare of eighty foot in every pane for wood and ſuch ſtuff: And in the middle of the ſaid large quadrant ſhall be a conduit goodly deviſed for the eaſe of the ſame college.

And I will, that the edification proceed in large form of my ſaid college, clean and ſubſtan-

 tial,

tial, ſetting a part ſuperfluity of too great curious works of entail and buſy moulding.

And I have deviſed and appointed, that the precinct of my ſaid college, as well on both ſides of the garden from the college to the water, as in all other places of the ſame precinct, be incloſed with a ſubſtantial wall of the height of fourteen foot, with a large tower at the principal entry againſt the middle of the eaſt pane out of the high ſtreet. And in the ſame tower a large gate; and another tower in the middle of the weſt end of the new bridge; and the ſame wall to be creſted, embattell'd and fortify'd with towers, as many as ſhall be thought convenient thereunto.

And I will that my ſaid college be edify'd of the moſt ſubſtantial and beſt abiding ſtuff, of ſtone, lead, braſs, and iron, that may beſt be had and provided thereto.

Clare-Hall, is a fine neat building of free-ſtone, very commodious and beautiful. It conſiſts of two ſpacious ſquares, with a fine library-room, built of free-ſtone, ſupported by a row of pillars, which makes it a very magnificent building.

What I have already wrote is ſufficient to give you a juſt idea of the grandeur of this univerſity; ſo ſhall not trouble you with an account of every particular college. It is undoubtedly a great and ancient nurſery of learning, as the following character from King Arthur plainly demonſtrates.

Arthur,

ARTHUR relying on the regal power received from God, to all his ſervants

GREETING,

Foraſmuch as almighty God, through the mercy of his clemency, without any antecedent merit, has beſtow'd on me the ſceptre of a king; I willingly return to him ſome part of what he has given. Being therefore guided by his grace, for the love of the heavenly country, and the health of the ſouls of my predeceſſors, Kings of Britain, for the advancement of the publick welfare of my kingdom of Britain, and the ſpiritual benefit of the ſcholars continually ſtudying at Cambridge, by the advice and conſent of all and ſingular the prelates and princes of the ſame kingdom, with licence of the apoſtolick ſee; I by this preſent writing enact and firmly decree, that the aforeſaid city of ſcholars, in which hitherto my predeceſſors, through the grace of the founder, have received the brightneſs of knowledge, and the light of learning, be exempt from publick taxes, and burthenſome works; that the doctors and ſcholars there may adhere to the ſtudy of literature undiſturb'd, as Lucius, the glorious king of Britain, decreed, embracing chriſtianity, by the preaching of the doctors of Cambridge. Wherefore the doctors and ſcholars of Cambridge are to remain in perpertual tranquility, ſafe and defended by regal privileges, with their families and eſtates, from all ſecular ſervitudes, as alſo from regal taxes, great or ſmall.

THIS charter was wrote about twelve hundred years ago, and King Arthur sent it by his nephew to the rector of the schools, whose name was Rynol.

FROM the best account of time I can gather, this was an university five hundred years before that famous one of Oxford.

THIS university has abundance of fine libraries; and every college endeavours to out-vie each other both in collecting antient manuscripts, and likewise in modern books.

THIS town gives the title of Duke to the eldest sons of the Kings of England.

THE county of Cambridge lies low and marshy; and produces excellent butter, and abundance of good grain.

MAY the great director of all human affairs, be your constant guide, and bring me safe to enjoy the conversation of my friend, who is, constantly in my mind. I often think of my friends and native country, and sometimes even resolve to return sooner than I design'd; but am now determin'd to stay some time longer; and shall always send you the accounts of my travels. I am

Your Friend and Servant.

LET-

LETTER IX.

SIR,

I SET out from Cambridge ſoon after I wrote my laſt letter to partake of the pleaſures of New-market, which is more famous for horſe races, than any grandeur of the town: For it conſiſts only of one ſtreet. I never thought my time better ſpent than I did at this place. Here all mankind are upon a level, from the firſt peer to the pooreſt peaſant. The farmer, the graſier, the farrier, and the ploughman, bets money with *his Grace*, *his Lordſhip*, *Sir Thomas*, &c. with as much freedom as if there was no diſtinction; and ſometimes *Hob* proves too ſharp for *his Grace*.

IN the morning the horſes are led over the grounds to air them, and make a pretty ſight; but when they come to ſtart for the plate, to ſee

what attention there is in every face, in expectation of the great wagers depending, is something worth observation. When a race is over, I can give you no better an idea of it, than the decision of a battle. For here are such a number of horse and foot, in such confusion, some galloping away full-speed; others seizing their betts, like conquerors their spoil; while the losers look like disconsolate prisoners; the whole in short is a scene very difficult to be express'd to the life; but I am sure would divert you much to see.

As soon as the races were over, I return'd to Cambridge, where I am acquainted with two or three ingenious men; here I staid a few days; in which time, I must confess, I was entertain'd in a most polite and genteel manner by the students.

FROM Cambridge I cross'd the country to Bedford, which is the county town of Bedfordshire, it is an old built town; in a low ground, and on each side a river, like the city of London; it is pretty large, has five churches, but very few people of any distinction; for notwithstanding it has a great many inhabitants, I don't remember I saw one coffee-house.

FROM Bedford I took a ride to Luton, which is in Bedfordshire, tho' very near Hertfordshire, the place called *Luton Downs* is a wild sort of land, yet the greatest part of it very well manur'd. These downs lie very open to the country; and I have some very particular reason to remember them, for a man well mounted attack'd me pistol in hand, and took away my money. These sort of robbers the English call High-

Highwaymen, or collectors upon the roads: The man indeed us'd me very well; he only ſaid, DELIVER YOUR MONEY, SIR; but I had not been us'd to ſuch language all the time I had been in England; nor did I uſe to part with my money in any ſuch manner; but upon my heſitating, he elevated his piſtol cloſe to my breaſt and repeated the ſame words, with an additional *Damme*; and I was oblig'd to pay him contribution.

IN this country are ſeveral fine ſeats; and the noblemen and gentlemen have greater influence over the country people than the King has over the citizens of London, who are the moſt reſolute people in the world in the defence of their liberties and properties.

THE Duke of Kent has a fine ſeat: Admiral Byng has another: The Duke of Bedford has likewiſe a fine ſeat, but very old.

BEDFORDSHIRE is a pleaſant country for ſport; eſpecially for fiſh and wild fowl; having abundance of fens or marſhes; here are good ſtore of hares and ſome partridges; but in the general I can't ſay I think it a pleaſant country.

AMPTILL, a pretty market town, about four or five miles from Bedford, is much pleaſanter than the county-town.

THE town of Bedford ſends abundance of veal, ready kill'd to London, which is near fifty miles; the carriages ſet out from Bedford about ſix-a-clock on Friday morning, and bring their goods to Newgate market in London, on Saturday morning by three or four-a-clock; and

and the Londoners are fond of country meat: Swine's flesh particularly is very much esteem'd for being fed in the country: because abundance is fed about town, and reckon'd not so sweet: But observe, my friend, the cunning contrivances of mankind to get money. In order to sell this London-fed pork at a good price and quick market, the owners, or their servants, dress themselves with the air of country people, sell their meat as such; and when it comes to table, is the finest country pork in the world; for the English people are very fantastical both in diet and dress; and like or dislike thro' conceit.

In the county of Bedford, near a place call'd Woburne, is a sort of earth which petrifies wood.

Bedfordshire does not afford much variety, it has no city, nor any town of considerable note.

I set out from Bedford for Northampton, which is very pleasantly situated; and the county town of Northamptonshire. This is a famous place for leather and making shoes; and near it are great numbers of noblemen's and gentlemen's seats.

I had not been long here before particular business engag'd me to come to London.

In my way I baited at Dunstable, a place where abundance of travellers stop; tho' I think not a pleasant town; it is situated upon a dry chalky ground, where no springs can be found; but they have large ponds of standing water, which the inhabitants told me were scarce ever dry,

dry, that ſupply the town very well. It has a great many inns, and is much frequented, it being in the high road from London to the north weſt of England. I happen'd to be here one market day, where are brought plenty of corn, cattle, and proviſions. I eat ſome larks here, becauſe it is reckon'd the beſt town in England for plenty of thoſe birds, and the beſt way of dreſſing them; I think they deſerve it; for they really pleas'd me very much. This town is in Bedfordſhire.

THE next place of any note I arriv'd at was St. Albans, in Hertfordſhire, a very ancient town, ſeated upon a hill: It is very populous, but the inhabitants ſomething rude in their manners. Abundance of Roman coins, and other antiquities have been found here in the earth, which are worthy the obſervation of a ſtranger. I was inform'd, that it was once a very great corn-market, but that the ſmall-pox being very brief there, ſpoil'd their market; and now a place call'd Hemel-Hempſtead, about five miles from St. Albans in the ſame county, is the greateſt corn-market in that part of the country. St. Albans abounds with inns; and is chiefly govern'd by inn-keepers, apothecaries and lawyers, of which profeſſions the mayor and aldermen generally conſiſt.

MY curioſity led me to ſtay a little longer than I would otherwiſe have done, from a great character I heard of the husbandmen in this county, who are reckon'd the beſt in England, and produce the fineſt wheat.

I THERE-

I THEREFORE ſet out from St. Albans to Hemel-hempſtead, the great corn-market, which indeed anſwer'd my expectations. Abundance of black cherry trees alſo grow in this country in the open fields and hedges; and the earth ſeems to be plow'd by mathematical rules.

FROM Hempſtead I went to Barkhemſtead, which was once a fine town, and had a good market; it was at this place the Engliſh nobles met to ſhake off the Norman yoke. It is now of no great repute; but is a very pleaſant town.

LANGLEY-ABBEY, a place of no great repute, but is the town where Nicholas, ſurnamed *Breakſpear*, afterwards biſhop of Rome, was born. And of him there is no great matter to boaſt of; for he was a man of ſuch a proud ſpirit, and eccleſiaſtical tyranny, that he made Frederick the Roman Emperor hold his ſtirrup.

WATFORD, is a large town, ſeated on a pleaſant river, and has a large market every Saturday.

BEING near the extreme part of Hertfordſhire, near the county of Middleſex, I was determin'd to ſee the other ſide of the country; therefore ſtruck over to St. Albans again; from from whence I went to Hatfield, which is but an indifferent town, but the Earl of Salisbury has here a noble ſeat, which was once a palace for the Kings of England; it is a fine building, pleaſantly ſituated, for proſpect, air, and water, and has a fine park.

FROM

FROM Hatfield I was resolv'd to go to Hitchin, which is a large town, I think the last in Hertfordshire on that side, being on the confines of Bedfordshire: In my way thither I stopt to refresh my self at a village, where I was inform'd a man was, by his own last will and desire, bury'd in the loft of a barn, which was the oddest whim I ever heard of.

HITCHIN is a large town, has a good corn-market, and is very populous; but the people very uncouth in their manners, as indeed they are all over Hertfordshire, unless the gentlemen; for as I observ'd to you before, the English gentlemen are for the most part polite and good natur'd.

I NOW made the best of my way to Hertford, the county town, seated on the river Lea, and is very pleasant; I saw nothing here particular; and having refreshed my self, I mounted again for London, in the very same road I set out from thence, except that at Kingsland, within two miles, I crossed the road to Islington, and so to town. I am very much pleas'd with my journey, and have all the time enjoy'd an excellent state of health.

Your Friend.

LETTER X.

SIR,

YOU will think it long, I don't doubt ſince you had a letter from me; but the buſineſs which call'd me to London, engag'd me longer than I expected. But I am now again reſolv'd to take a little pleaſure. A particular acquaintance of mine has a Yatcht, which gives me a great opportunity of ſeeing the country on each ſide the river Thames; and as it is now the pleaſant ſeaſon, I frequently accept his invitation; and ſhall therefore ſend you ſuch obſervations as I have made in theſe little voyages.

ADJOINING to London is a pleaſant place call'd Lime-houſe, near which our yatcht generally lies, oppoſite to Lime-houſe is Deptford, a very populous town, inhabited chiefly by ſeamen. Here the King has a Dock for building ſhips for the Royal Navy, with ſtore houſes for ammu-

ammunition, and other neceſſaries proper for a fleet.

GREENWICH in a manner joins to Deptford; it is a large and pleaſant town, inhabited by abundance of gentry, and is a place of great reſort. It was anciently the reſidence of the Kings and Queens of England. Here the famous Elizabeth, that warlike Queen of England, was born. The palace is but ſmall, and is now inhabited by the governor of Greenwich hoſpital, which looks more like a palace than any building in the whole kingdom. Its ſituation, nobleneſs of architecture and ſpaciouſneſs, is beyond what can be imagin'd. I don't wonder when a ſtranger ſees ſuch an hoſpital as this, that he ſays, *The Kings of England live in cottages, but the beggars in palaces.* The hall of this hoſpital is painted by Sir James Thornhill, who painted the cupola of St. Paul's. In this place old and diſabled ſeamen are well provided for.

HERE is a pleaſant terras on the banks of the Thames; the ſeamens lodgings are compos'd of two wings, with a large area in the middle. Behind this hoſpital, is a ſmall, but moſt delightful park, with various walks, well ſtock'd with deer, and much frequented by genteel people. It is likewiſe much noted for a place of rendezvous in holy-day time for ſervants, both men and women; and here many young girls, elevated with pleaſure and a little liquor, are eaſily perſuaded to ſurrender their virginity at diſcretion. And I have often wonder'd

der'd that people would ſuffer their children to go at ſuch times, where they are under the greateſt temptations.

Upon a hill in this park is a houſe built by King Charles the ſecond, for making aſtronomical obſervations, which he furniſh'd with teleſcopes, and other inſtruments fit for the purpoſe, and for the better making theſe obſervations. From the top of this houſe is a fine proſpect, not only of the city of London, the counties of Kent, Middleſex, and Surry; but likewiſe of the river Thames, which affords a delightful proſpect, to ſee the ſhips every tide going out and coming in, bringing home the treaſures of foreign nations, and carrying out the manufactures of their own.

Blackheath, lies behind this park, and is delightful both as to ſituation and proſpect; for it is very near the Thames, but upon a great aſcent, and is reckon'd as healthy a ſpot of ground as any in England. Upon this heath is a very noble ſeat built by Sir Gregory Page. This heath is famous for being the place where the Daniſh camp lay; and here ſeveral bloody battles have been fought.

Upon this heath Wat. Taylor, an ignorant mean fellow, muſter'd a hundred thouſand men. He was, as I learn from Engliſh hiſtory, kill'd by one Sir William Walworth, a lord mayor of London, under pretence of making a treaty. Wat. Tylor was indeed a rebel, but when a treaty is on foot, I cannot think it honourable privately to ſtab a man under pretence of an accommodation.

commodation. Another rebel nam'd Jack Cade in the reign of Henry the ſixth; and Michael Joſeph a backſmith, in the reign of Henry the ſeventh, made this heath the field of battle.

NEAR this village is a place call'd Charleton, where is yearly kept a rude ſort of ſport, and is called Horn-fair. I was very deſirous of ſeeing this part of Kent: but the tide would not permit; we therefore went aboard the Yatcht again, and in an hour's time arriv'd at WOOLWICH; which for its convenient ſituation on the banks of the Thames, and the great depth of water, is the place where abundance of large ſhips of war are built. It is likewiſe a magazine for bombs, carcaſſes, mortars, and all kind of neceſſaries for the ſea ſervice.

THERE is nothing worth remarking as we ſail'd down the river till we arriv'd at Graveſend, unleſs a place call'd Daggenham on the Eſſex ſhore where the Thames made a breach, and overflow'd all the neighbouring lands, and drowned many cattel. This breach was at firſt but ſmall, and might have been done at a ſmall expence; but it at laſt became a publick concern; and the parliament of England took it under their inſpection. It was compleated by Captain Perry, a man well known in other parts of the world for performances of this kind; but is now dead.

GRAVESEND is a middling ſort of a town, where outward bound ſhips take in their proviſions; and here their ſhips are ſearch'd, but this ſearch is only a cuſtom; and a well coin'd compli-

compliment does it at once. However, all outward bound ſhips muſt ſtop here. The manner of ſtopping them is thus: As ſoon as the centinel ſees a ſhip among thoſe riding in the road, he fires his muſquet, which is as much as to ſay, *Bring too*; if no notice is taken of this, the centinel fires again, which is as much as to ſay, *Why don't you bring to?* If the ſhip ſtops not then, he fires again; which means, *That if they bring not too immediately, they muſt be made.*

If all this will not do, the gunner of the fort fires a piece of cannon, tho' without ball: if the ſhip ſtops not then, the gunner immediately fires at them again with ſhot, which is a ſignal to Tilbury fort, on the oppoſite ſhore, in Eſſex; and they immediately let fly upon her with all the force they are able. And the ſituation of this fort is ſuch, that they can reach a ſhip a long way; for they have a great many guns, and it is a regular fortification.

At Graveſend we put a-ſhore, and din'd: we met with excellent proviſions; and very good liquors; after dinner we ſmoak'd a pipe of tobacco, and join'd company with ſome gentlemen, who were facetious and good-natur'd, and very merry in converſation: one of them told the following ſtory, of a robbery committed on Gad's-hill, not far from Graveſend, a noted place for robbing ſea-men, when they have juſt receiv'd their pay: About four a-clock in the morning the robbery was committed by one Nicks, who immediately after he had done

it,

it, came to Gravesend, where he waited an hour before he could ferry over to Tilbury in Essex, then he rode through a part of that county, as far as Chelmsford, where he stopt half an hour to refresh his horse; then he rode thro' the county of Essex, over the downs to Cambridge, and thence to Huntingdon, where he bated himself and his mare about an hour, and they keeping the north road he arriv'd at York, about eight in the evening. He immediately put off his boots and riding clothes, and went dress'd to the bowling-green; where, among the other gentlemen, was the lord-mayor of York, whom he singled only, and offer'd to lay an odd bett with concerning the bowls then running; and likewise to ask him what a clock it was, which was either a quarter before or after [illegible] a-clock; he took care also to bring in such discourse as should make the lord-mayor remember the day of the month as well as the hour of the day.

Mr. Nicks was afterwards try'd for the robbery; the man who was robb'd swore to the robber, the place, and the time. The whole case turn'd upon this single point, *Whether it was possible that a man could commit a robbery at four a-clock in the morning at Gad's-hill in Kent, and be upon the bowling-green at York the same evening?* The jury thought it morally impossible; and therefore acquitted him; the two places being above a hundred and fifty miles distant.

From Gravesend we steer'd our course to Sheerness; which is a large and strong fortification,

cation built by King Charles the ſecond, on the iſland of Shippey.

We now turn'd our courſe up the river Medway, and went aſhore reſolving to ſee as much as we could of the county of Kent; which abounds with the richeſt yeomen of any county in England.

Rochester, was the firſt place we arrived at, which is indeed an ancient city, but of very little note at this time; but the river Medway makes amends for the city; it being the chief in England for preſerving the Royal Navy.

Chatham, is near Rocheſter, upon the Medway, and here is a fine large dock for the King of England's ſhip's. The magazines for cordage, ſails, and other materials for ſhips are diſpoſed in an excellent manner; and it is eſteem'd the compleateſt place of its kind in the whole world.

In the reign of King Charles the ſecond, the Dutch burnt two ſhips lying in the river Medway; but it is now too well guarded to ſuffer any more ſuch indignities.

We then reſolv'd to ſee Feverſham, the burial place of King Stephen, the only one of that name that ever wore the crown of England. It has a market on Wedneſdays and Saturdays, and two fairs yearly which continue ten days each. 'Tis a populous and wealthy place, ſituated in the pleaſanteſt part of Kent, and has water-carriage for their goods.

Abundance of apples, cherries and oiſters are ſent from this town to the London markets, there being ſmall veſſels on purpoſe to attend the trade

trade and paſſengers, which are call'd Feverſham Hoys.

From Feverſham we went to a hill called Boughton, which is about four miles from Canterbury; from whence that city is plainly ſeen; and the whole country within a few miles of London.

Canterbury, is a city of great antiquity, it having been built near three thouſand years; it is ſituated in a very fertile country; and has a profitable trade in the ſilk manufacture, introduc'd by the French, who were drove out of their native country on account of their religion; which is ſurprizing, that a wiſe and politic prince, who in all probability had no religion at all himſelf, would baniſh his ſubjects for differing from the general church, and with them an advantageous branch of trade.

This city has a fine cathedral, near which the French or Walloons have a church. It likewiſe gives title to the arch-high-prieſt of England, who is ſtiled, *His grace the Lord archbiſhop of Canterbury.*

The city in general makes but an indifferent figure; and is more remarkable for its antiquity, than its preſent grandeur. Here John, Henry the ſecond, and Edward the firſt, all Kings of England, were married.

Edward the black Prince, of great renown among the Engliſh, was here buried; as was Henry the fourth and his Wife.

Canterbury is well ſtored with proviſions, and

and cheap; it has two markets every week, viz. Wednesdays and and Saturdays: It has about fourteen churches.

CANTERBURY is govern'd by a mayor, court of aldermen, and recorder, and sends two deputies to the grand court of the nation. Its ancient grandeur is very much eclips'd by the shocks of fortune; and many casual fires, that have at times almost consum'd the city.

WE were now determin'd to see Dover, which is commodiously situated on the sea, and has prodigious high cliffs, which command both the sea and all the adjacent country; it has a strong castle and fortifications, so that it is a strong place both by art and nature; it has likewise a commodious haven.

DOVER is a place of good trade, not only on account of its being a sea-port, but likewise for its situation, it being so near France, that gentlemen come here to take a trip over and back again in a short time, the whole passage being about twenty miles. It has two markets every week, with very good provisions.

ALONG this shore are several other forts, castles, and corporate towns.

SANDWICH, one of the cinque-port towns; a place of no great strength; it hath two markets a week, viz. on Wednesdays and Saturdays. About nine hundred years ago, the Danes were overthrown at this place by Ethelstone, son to King Egbert, who took nine of their ships. This town hath undergone the fortune of war,

it

it having been once deſtroy'd by the Danes, and thrice taken and burnt by the French.

DEAL, is a member of the town and port of Sandwich; to ſecure which, there are three caſtles, viz. Deal, Sandown, and Womar. It was here that Julius Cæſar the Roman Emperor landed, when he invaded Britain. Fordwich is alſo a member of the port of Sandwich; it is ſituated upon the river Slower, over which there is a bridge: But I could not learn, that this place was of any ſignification; and its pride conſiſts in having good trouts.

RECULVER, a place frequented by fiſhermen; here is a church whoſe lofty ſpire ſerves for a ſea mark; and here they told us the ſecond King of Kent was buried.

RUMNEY, another of the cinque port towns, ſituated in a marſh of about fourteen miles in length, which is very famous for fatting cattle; this marſh is the gift of the ocean. All the cinque port towns enjoy particular honours and privileges.

AT Romney we fell into company with ſome very merry gentlemen, who told ſeveral inſtructive and comical ſtories. One of them particularly told us a ſtory concerning Vortiger, King of Britain; who being at war with the northern people of this iſland, ſent to Hengiſt, a Saxon, for aſſiſtance, with which Vortiger gain'd the victory; but Hengiſt was ſo delighted with the country, that he could not find in his heart to return; and therefore requeſted that he might ſtay, for that he was ſo delighted with the country

that he could be satisfi'd to live in a house which should require no more land to be built upon, than what a hide of leather could cover. Vortiger readily granted this, thinking the request too small, to admit of any design. Upon the ground this hide of leather encompass'd, Hengist built a castle; for he caus'd the hide to be cut into the smallest thongs possible, with which he encompass'd as much ground as served his purpose, and from thence it was called *Thong-Castle*.

HYTHE, another of the cinque ports. Here are some thousand bones and skulls of a gigantick size, which are kept in a room in very good order; being the remains of the Danes kill'd in a battle before the Norman Conquest. It has an indifferent market on Saturdays. The town is govern'd by a mayor and jurats, under whose care here are two hospitals.

BEING determin'd to rest ourselves here, I am willing to send you as soon as possible what progress I make, which when you come to collect will be sufficient to give you a general knowledge of the kingdom of England; and a particular one of what is worthy observation. I remain

Your constant and faithful Friend.

LET-

LETTER XI.

SIR,

WHEN I was in London, I us'd to hear much commendation of Rye-fish, for they are esteem'd the best that comes to Billingsgate-market; and being not a great way from this town, I was resolv'd to see it. Rye is in the county of Suffex, the ready way from London to Normandy, which makes it very convenient for the smuggling trade, that is, selling goods without paying duty to the King; as indeed all the ports and towns which lie convenient for trade with France do the like. It is a *cinque Port*, inhabited chiefly by fishermen, yet is govern'd by a mayor and jurats; and it has two markets every week, viz. Wednesdays and Saturdays.

In this port King George the first was put safe ashore in his return from Germany, when the English people expected to hear of his being at the bottom of the sea; for it was in the winter season, and prodigious stormy weather.

I Shall give you an account of two or three places in Kent, and then take my leave of it. Notwithstanding Canterbury is an ancient city, yet Maidstone has the vogue of the country. Here are kept the assizes, the courts of justice, as likewise the place for electing members of parliament; and is the grand resort for the gentry; and the ladies appear at church on Sundays with the splendor of a court.

The river Medway is navigable to this town for hoys, which bring to London vast quantities of cherries; the county of Kent, particularly this part of it, having the finest cherry-orchards in England; and you would be amaz'd to see what quantities are brought to London in a plentiful season.

Tunbridge-Wells, remarkable for its waters: tho' I must confess I think there are waters near London, equally as good, call'd *New-Tunbridge-Wells*; the latter have been much resorted to by people of the greatest distinction, when one of the royal daughters of England drank them; but when that princess left of drinking, the company in a great measure left of coming: For the English people are very whimsical and fantastical. I drank these waters my self that season, and began pretty early in the year; the first morning the princess came, there was but

but little company; I was ſeriouſly amuſing my ſelf with a pipe of tobacco, ſitting upon a bench in a walk, where ſhe took two or three turns, by which I had the opportunity of viewing her well, and hearing her talk; I never ſaw a more pleaſant countenanc'd lady in my life, nor one of a ſweeter diſpoſition. Her addreſs was majeſtick, yet ſhe behav'd with the greateſt affability imaginable; and I plainly diſcover'd, that perſons bred up in the ſplendor of a court, can take pleaſure in talking with people of leſs figure than is found there; where cerenrony takes place of the ſweets of converſation and real friendſhip. I have often been amaz'd, that crown'd heads don't find means ſometimes to converſe with their common ſubjects *incognito*; they would often receive a greater pleaſure by it than they can imagine.

A Merry, mad, whimſical inoffenſive ſort of a gentlemen, is a conſtant viſiter at theſe Wells; and ſtiles himſelf *Knight of New-tunbridge-wells*; he makes verſes, ſermons, ſpeeches to the ladies, admires them prodigiouſly; but he imagines he is engag'd to a young lady of quality, who attended the Princeſs, and therefore proceeds no farther than complaiſance in his way. But there is to every publick place of reſort in England, either a fool or a knave, but generally both.

But to return to Tunbridge-Wells in Kent, it lies in a bottom between two hills, one called mount Sion, and the other mount Ephraim, both abounding in houſes and gardens for the reception of thoſe who come to drink the waters, or for the pleaſures of the place.

THE well is large, pav'd, and ſurrounded, with a large wall; here is pav'd walks, one ſide of which is inhabited by ſhopkeepers, coffee-men; and on the other ſide is a good market.

I can't ſay much to this place; we indeed riſe in the morning and go to the Wells; at nine go home to dreſs, at ten ſome go to church and ſome to coffee-houſes; then to the walks, where muſick is continually playing; and in theſe walks all ſort of people are to be met with; and converſation is free for every one, provided decency and good manners are obſerv'd.

As Tunbridge is a place of much reſort, gameſters, ſharpers, intriguers, fortune-hunters, ſops, fools, beaux, &c. are here in ſwarms; and a great many gameſters find their account: for notwithſtanding there are very ſevere laws in England againſt gaming, yet the people have ſuch an inclination to it, that no laws can reſtrain them.

I will give you a general account of the county of Kent, and then proceed; it is of a fat ſoil, which makes its yeomen rich; here is plenty of cattle, fiſh, fowl, and fruits, ; hops in great plenty. The inhabitants diſtinguiſh their county in the following manner; the upper part healthy but not wealthy; the middle both healthy and wealthy; and the lower part or marſhes, wealthy but not healthy, the people being continually ſubject to agues; but theſe Lowlands are remarkable for the men having many wives. I am,

SIR,

Your Friend and Servant.

LET-

LETTER XII.

SIR,

BEING quite tir'd of Tunbridge, the diverſion there not ſuiting my diſpoſition, we ſet out for Lewes, the road to which is very bad; it is a fine pleaſant town, well built on the banks of the river, within twelve miles of the ſea. This town is well inhabited both by gentlemen and tradeſmen, is govern'd by two conſtables, and ſends two burgeſſes to parliament.

FROM this town we rode in full view of the ſea, on a fine even ground, for above twelve miles, to Bright Helmſton, a poor fiſhing town, on the very edge of the ſea.

FROM hence we came to Shoreham, which is chiefly inhabited by ſhip-carpenters, ſhip-chandlers, and other trades depending upon ſhipping.

I ſaw nothing in this country worth remarking, till we came to Chicheſter, a city in a plain

country, on the banks of a river, which at a ſmall diſtance from it diſchargeth itſelf into the ſea.

In this city is a cathedral, whoſe ſpire is ſeen at ſome diſtance upon the ſea. There were ſeveral ſtones of a large ſize forc'd out of this ſteeple by lightning, into the ſtreets, but did no damage, tho' their weight would have daſh'd the ſtrongeſt houſe in the town to pieces, if they had fell upon it.

The people of this city are ſomething ſuperſtitious; and many of them believe, that when their High-Prieſt is to die, a heron gives notice of it, by ſitting upon the pinnacle of the ſpire of the ſteeple.

Whilst we were in this city, a merry ſort of an old man, fell into company, who diverted us very much by mimicking the French-horn, and many other entertaining things: For he call'd the notes of various birds, with ſomething he put in his mouth, but would not let us ſee what it was: He told us it was an inſtrument of ſuch a nature, that he could have a hundred guineas for the ſight of it; and that he durſt not make one like it on pain of death; for that a number of them would call the birds out of the air, the beaſts out of the field, the fiſhes out of the water, and even the dead out of their graves: Theſe wonderful qualities rais'd our curioſity, and one of the company wager'd a bottle of wine it was impoſſible. The old fellow prov'd the virtues of his inſtrument thus: As to the firſt article a gentleman he knew, who was blind, would not

not only give a hundred guineas to have a ſight of it, but even a thouſand; the inſtrument he play'd upon was only a ſixpence, and as it is the current coin of this kingdom, it is death to make one like it; as to the other qualities of calling the birds, &c. he ſaid all things obey'd the call of money; therefore a number of his inſtruments would command any thing; and as to the raiſing the dead out of their graves, the grave-diggers, we were inform'd, would oblige the ſurgeons with dead bodies, for a handſome gratuity. We allow'd our friend had loſt his bottle, and the old man made us very merry.

FROM Chicheſter we paſs'd by the earl of Scarborough's ſeat at Stanſted, ſurrounded with thick woods. From this houſe are ſeen the harbour of Portſmouth, the ſhips at Spithead, as likewiſe St. Helens. Spithead has been of late years famous for a peaceable and noble fleet, where gentlemen and ladies us'd to be very magnificently entertain'd, without fear of a broad-ſide being given them; the goddeſs of the ſea having here ſeem'd to fix her amorous abode.

FROM the Earl of Scarborough's ſeat, we ſoon reach'd Portſmouth, which is the largeſt fortification in England. This place is ſituated in ſuch a manner, that it is the beſt ſecurity to the navy of any port in England; the entrance into the harbour is ſafe, but very narrow, guarded on both ſides with plat-forms of cannon, particularly on the *Point*, where there is a brick plat-form built with two tier of guns, one over another, and which can fire ſo in cover, that

the gunners cannot be beaten from their guns, or their guns eaſily diſmounted.

THE other is from the point of land on the ſide of Goſport, where are two batteries.

BEFORE any ſhips can enter this port, they muſt likewiſe paſs the cannon of the main plat-form of the garriſon; and alſo another at South-ſea caſtle; ſo that it ſeems next to impoſſible for any ſhips to force their way into this harbour.

THIS town is alſo very ſtrong by land, the works being very large and numerous; and ſeveral additions made about the docks and yards, which tho' in ſome meaſure independent one of another, yet they cannot eaſily be ſeparately attack'd, while they are in the poſſeſſion of one maſter.

THE docks and yards are the perfect repreſentation of a town, there being large rows of houſes built at the publick charge, for the principal officers of the place, eſpecially the commiſſioner, the agent of the victualling office, &c.

PORTSMOUTH, beſides its being a fortification, is a fine flouriſhing corporation. Peace is commonly ſuppos'd to bring plenty; but war enriches this town, on account of the vaſt concourſe of people, both mariners and others, who have buſineſs here at ſuch times. But the building of the navy being much increas'd, and a great part of it done here, makes a continual trade.

THE government of the corporation is like moſt others, and independent of any military force,

as

as much as if there was no garriſon there; for the Engliſh people are very jealous of their civil rights, and cannot endure to ſee more military men than are abſolutely requiſite; and they are kept under ſtrict diſcipline with regard to the civil magiſtrate: the governors of all fortified places are ſenſible of this; therefore take great care to avoid diſputes.

THE country from Portſmouth to Southampton lies very low, and is full of creeks and inlets to the ſea and rivers, all the way to Southampton; and we ferry over three times in about eighteen miles; beſides going over one bridge at Tichfield. Our firſt ferry was from Portſmouth to Goſpart, from thence to Titchfield, where we paſs a river. Four miles farther we paſs another river at Buſſelton, which is narrow, but very deep; and is a yard for building ſhips of war.

FROM hence when we are oppoſite to Southampton, we paſs another creek, which is both broad and deep.

ON the oppoſite bank ſtands the ancient town of Southampton; on the other ſide of which is another river; ſo that this town is ſituated upon a point running out into the ſea, between two fine rivers, both navigable ſome way into the country, which are very uſeful for bringing down timber; for the river on the weſt ſide of the town comes by the edge of New Foreſt; here we ſaw a prodigious quantity of timber, of an uncommon ſize, lying on the ſhore of the river for above two miles, where it is left

to

to be fetch'd by the builders at Portſmouth dock as they have occaſion for it.

SOUTHAMPTON is an old large town, well inhabited, tho its trade as well the town itſelf, is very much damaged; for London ſwallows up the trade of moſt places in England. It is govern'd by a mayor, bailiffs, and burgeſſes, and ſends two burgeſſes to parliament.

WE now chang'd our rout, and came to Petersfield, remarkable for its great number of inns, which is certainly an advantage to travellers, and are of great ſervice if one happens to be indiſpos'd: For the towns and villages in England are in general well ſtor'd with inns, and the towns are ſeldom very far diſtant from one another.

THE Duke of Bolton has two very fine ſeats in this country, one between Alton and Alresford, and one at Baſing. Alton is a ſmall market town, of no note, neither is there any conſiderable manufacture in all this part of England; except a little drugget and ſhalloon making.

FROM Alton we came to Farnham, which is a large populous market-town, ſeated on the river Wey: Its market is remarkable for the vaſt quantity of corn bought here, but particularly oats and barley. Near this town King Alfred ſubdu'd the Danes, and made a great ſlaughter of them.

FROM Farnham we went over Bagſhot-heath, and Windſor foreſt, which is a vaſt tract of land within twenty miles of London, quite barren, the ſoil being ſand. Upon this foreſt grows

grows nothing but a little heath, as it is call'd, upon which a few ſmall ſheep feed; and here and there are a few ſcattering houſes, and it is computed, that here are about an hundred thouſand acres of barren land in this foreſt, in the counties of Surrey, Hampſhire and Berkſhire.

But near this foreſt is a town call'd Windſor, very delightfully ſituated on the banks of the Thames, in a wholeſome and pleaſant air; it is govern'd by a mayor, and other ſub-officers, ſends burgeſſes to parliament, and hath a market on Saturdays.

Here is a Royal palace and a caſtle, which on account of its height and ſituation commands a moſt delightful proſpect; the caſtle is ſeen at a village about four miles from London, call'd Hampſtead, a very pleaſant place, and which I mention'd in a former letter, tho' I forgot to mention the ſeeing this caſtle or the ſhips under ſail in the Thames, and which is very pleaſant; and of a clear day one may ſee upon this hill forty miles up and down the Thames, beſides a fine proſpect of the country all round.

In the caſtle have been born ſeveral Kings, Queens and Princes; among whom was King Edward the third, who had John King of France, and David King of Scots priſoners here at one time. In this caſtle the ceremony of Knights of the garter is ſolemniz'd with the utmoſt ſtate imaginable.

Having ſome buſineſs at Guilford, which lies in the road from London to Chicheſter and Portſ-

Portſmouth, we went from Windſor to ſtay there a day or two.

GUILFORD, is finely ſituated both for pleaſure and profit, on the river Wey, which is navigable for barges quite up to the town. In this river are abundance of ſluices for the more eaſe to force the barges when heavy laden for London. Here it was that the Engliſh Saxon Kings had their palace. The aſſizes for the county are very often kept in this town, which is full of inns and taverns, and well ſtock'd with all ſorts of liquors and proviſions.

NOT far from Guilford is a place call'd Godalmin, of note for a woman who brought forth rabbits; ſhe deceiv'd ſome eminent men by her tricks, particularly a ſurgeon to King George the firſt: But ſhe was at laſt diſcover'd, and put into the houſe of correction, to be puniſh'd for an impoſtor.

THERE is a croſs road from Guilford to London, which being by much the pleaſanteſt, and not frequented by coaches and carriers we took that way. From Guilford to Leather-head is ten miles; from Leatherhead to London, over Banſtead downs fifteen, which is twenty five miles from London; tho' I paid for a letter at Guilford as thirty miles; but the computed miles and poſt-miles differ all over England, and in ſome places very much.

FROM Guilford to Letherhead the road is in a manner lin'd with gentlemens ſeats, which lie chiefly on the Weſt ſide of the road, and their parks and gardens almoſt touch one another.

IT

It being the pleaſant ſeaſon, we ſtaid ſome time at Epſom, which is a very pleaſant town, all the houſes having gardens and trees before their doors, and like a grove; it is in the form of a ſemicircle, in the middle of which is a plain that opens to the Downs.

This place is remarkable for its fine air and mineral waters, and is much frequented by the citizens of London; and here is variety of fiſh, fleſh, fowls and fruit brought to one's door every morning.

In this town are raffling ſhops and muſick for the diverſion of the ladies; as likewiſe two bowling-greens for the diverſion of the gentlemen. Some of the ladies at this place will game very much: But it is indeed grown a faſhionable vice among the Engliſh ladies to game; and many of them practiſe it in a ſhameful manner, throwing away their ſubſtance to ſharpers, and ſacrificing the happineſs of their families.

Epsom, when we conſider it as a place of publick reſort, is very free from cenſure and obſervation; and you may keep company here as at London, without your company knowing or deſigning to know where you lodge; for every one, or the generality, at leaſt, think it ſufficient to mind their own buſineſs.

In the morning gentlemen go to the wells, or perhaps take a game at bowls.

After dinner they ride out upon the Downs, which are very fine, and remarkable for producing the beſt mutton, but not very large, of any place in England.

At

At night some play at cards, some raffle in the long-room, and others conclude the evening with a glass of wine at the tavern, and the conversation of good company.

On Sundays in the afternoon the company generally go to a delightful place about six miles off, called Box-hill, where is no house, but arbors cut out in box-wood on the top of the hill, from whence in a clear day is a prospect over the wild of Sussex, besides an unbounded one in Kent; and some thro' the assistance of glasses, and knowing the situation of places, have plainly seen the town of Holsham, Ashdown forest, the Duke of Somerset's house at Petworth, and the south downs. Upon this hill one may have all manner of refreshments for money; for that is the life and soul of every thing; and in this wood we often insensibly lose our company, in a sort of labyrinth of box-wood, which affords a pretty sort of diversion.

This place was first planted with box-wood by Thomas Earl of Arundel, who design'd to build a house there; but here being no water, alter'd his resolution, and built one at Albury, but a little way off.

In the neighbourhood of Epsom are several good seats. At the extremity of the village the Lord Guilford has one called Durdans, which was built out of the materials of Nonsuch, a Royal palace in the neighbourhood, built by Henry VIII. King Charles the second gave it to the Dutchess of Cleveland, who pull'd it down and

and ſold the materials. It is now built of free-ſtone. It has two fronts, one to the gardens and another to the Downs, both which are very noble; the apartments are very regular, and in the garden is a moſt delightful grove; the variety of birds warbling their notes, the gentle whiſpering of the trees, and every little pleaſure that ſooths the heart to ſoftneſs and love is here to be found; and is remarkable for the loves between a nobleman and his lady's ſiſter.

THE Lord Baltimore has a houſe with very fine gardens; the houſe indeed is old. Here are many other genteel houſes.

ABOUT ſix miles from Epſom in the way to London is Wimbleton, once the ſeat of the Duke of Leeds. Here are three ſeveral fine proſpects from the garden, which has the moſt variety of any garden I ever ſaw; for you cannot turn one way or other, but your eye has always ſomething new, which is a very great amuſement, and employs one's attention a long while.

THIS houſe was built by Sir Thomas Cecil, ſon to that great ſtateſman, Lord Burleigh, who was prime miniſter to Queen Elizabeth, when the Spaniſh Armada came to invade England.

PUTNEY is a large village, adorn'd with a great many pretty little ſeats, with gardens, fiſh-ponds and groves; the whole place is ſo very pleaſant, that it ſeems to be one continu'd garden. Here is a fine airy place call'd Putney-common, very commodiouſly ſituated to take an air-

ing

ing in a morning; but the misfortune is, it is frequently haunted by robbers.

FROM Putney I croſs'd the bridge to Fulham, a town of no great note, except for its being the reſidence of the High-Prieſt of London; near which an inferior prieſt hang'd himſelf for want of the common neceſſaries of life. I mention'd to you before what irregularities there are among the prieſts, on account of the ſtrange diſproportion of their maintenance.

CHELSEA is next to Fulham. Here is a college for wounded and decayed ſoldiers, and is a fine regular building, it conſiſts of a body and two large wings. In the area, which opens to the Thames, is the ſtatue of King Charles the ſecond; and from its front on the other ſide is a large place for the ſoldiers to walk in.

The little rooms where the ſoldiers lie are in proper galleries, kept very clean; and every thing is conducted with the utmoſt regularity.

THIS village is adorn'd with abundance of fine houſes; and notwithſtanding it is not above two or three miles from London, is one of the pleaſanteſt places in England; and one would never imagine one's ſelf to be ſo near London, by the place, which is finely ſituated on the banks of the Thames, in the way to Fulham. Theſe houſes command a fine proſpect into the county of Surrey.

WE are now again got to London, where I ſhall ſtay a ſhort time to tranſact ſome affairs; and then we purpoſe to take another little voyage

age in the yatch, and afterwards take a circuit from the Eſſex ſhore. I am,

SIR,

Your Friend and Servant.

LETTER XIII.

SIR,

MY buſineſs being over, and my former companions at leiſure, we again ſet ſail, and were very merry, having a pleaſant voyage. But I can't ſay, that I met with any thing material in our voyage, than what I before told you.

BEING tir'd of the water we were reſolv'd to take the pleaſures of the ſhore, and accordingly we landed at Yarmouth, ſituated on the river Yare; it is a clean town, and a place of ſome ſtrength. The key, which lies towards the continent, is a fine ſtreet, very long and very large, with good houſes fronting it.

IN the harbour there were a great number of colliers and fiſhing boats, and here is two great ſeaſons in the year for fiſhing, for Makarel in the

the ſpring, and Herrings at the concluſion of the ſummer ſeaſon. Here are abundance of Herrings dry'd, of which there is a vaſt conſumption every year in the city of London.

THIS town is oblig'd by its charter, granted by King Henry the third, to ſend a hundred herring pies yearly to the King, whereſoever he is. The cuſtom is obſerv'd to this day, and thus contriv'd. The town ſends a hundred herrings, baked in twenty four pies, to the ſheriffs of Norwich, who deliver them to the lord-mayor of Eaſt Charlton, by whom they muſt be carried to the King. Accordingly an indenture is drawn up every year, that the lord-mayor of the place aforeſaid received thoſe pies, and oblig'd himſelf to convey them to the King.

HERE is a great concourſe of people to buy herrings at Michaelmas fair, as it is call'd, which continues all the month of October. The cinque ports, by an old cuſtom, appoint certain commiſſioners to attend it, who join with the magiſtrates of the town, and hold a court during the fair, to determine all matters of controverſy, to execute juſtice, and to keep the peace.

THE town is govern'd by two bailiffs and a recorder, aldermen and common council. It has three fairs in a year, and a market every Saturday, and as well ſerv'd with proviſions as any place in the country.

YARMOUTH maintaineth a peere againſt the ſea, at the annual expence of three thouſand pounds, yet has no eſtate to do it, as many corporations have. It is well inhabited, and a great

reſort

resort for seamen, being a port town, and the ready passage to Holland for the packet-boats and other vessels.

The curing of herrings is indeed a very considerable trade to this town; but that is not all; for the merchants have a great trade for exporting them to Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Messina, and Venice; as also to Spain and Portugal; and take the opportunity at the same time of exporting great quantities of Stuffs, Camblets, &c. made at Norwich and places adjacent: They likewise have a considerable trade with Holland for their woollen manufacture; and send over large quantities every year. They have likewise a considerable fishing trade, to the north sea for cod; and to Norway and the Baltick for deals, oak, oars, pitch, tar, hemp, flax, canvas, sail-cloth, and all manner of naval stores, which they consume chiefly in their own port; where a great number of ships are built every year. They have of late very much improv'd the coal trade between Newcastle and the Thames; and in short have taken all the measures they are able to make themselves rich.

The streets are all streight from north to south, with lanes or alleys crossing them in strait lines, which makes it as regular a built town as any in England, and seems to be contriv'd for one compleat building.

The market place is in the street towards the sea side, and is very broad; in this street likewise stands the church, whose lofty spire serves for a sea mark.

From

From Yarmouth we reſolv'd to go to Norwich, which is a large city ; but not peopled in proportion to its bigneſs ; when compar'd with London. It is famous for weaving ſtuffs and crapes, in which trade a great number of factors in London get a handſome livelihood, and ſeveral of them are very rich : The commodities of this city are uſed all over the world, and bring great riches to the city. It is commodiouſly ſituated on the river Yare, over which there are ſeveral bridges. This river runs to Yarmouth, and there diſchargeth itſelf into the ſea.

THIS city is about ſix miles in circumference, has a very ſpacious market place, and the houſes round it well built, and the ſhops full of goods. Here are twelve gates and thirty four pariſhes beſides the cathedral, which is a fine building with a lofty ſpire. Some of the churches are cover'd with thatch, and all of them cruſted with ſtone, curiouſly cut.

ROUND the cloſe of the cathedral is the biſhop's palace, with the prebends houſes.

THE Dukes of Norfolk, hereditary marſhals of England, have a palace in this city, but do not reſide here ; for this is a Roman Catholick family ; and the generality of Norwich being quite of a contrary opinion, the inhabitants ſhew them but little reſpect ; and the Engliſh nobility love a good deal of homage, eſpecially from tradeſmen. 'Tis however kept in very good repair ; for the Roman Chatholicks are always in expectation of having their religion get the upper hand in England ; tho' I muſt confeſs, I think with no great reaſon

reaſon; yet they never had a better proſpect than at preſent, the prieſts of the national church for the moſt part regarding money more than religion; by which means the Romiſh emiſſaries have gain'd a great number of Proſelytes, whole families at once.

FROM the old caſtle which ſtands upon an eminence, and is now the county jail, is a fine proſpect of the city and country adjacent; near this caſtle is the ſhire-houſe, where the aſſizes are kept.

HERE are two churches for the Dutch and Flemmings, who firſt brought the worſted manufacture to this city, and they have many privileges, which are juſtly preſerv'd.

THE market croſs is very lofty, built of free-ſtone, after the manner of a piazza. Wedneſday, Friday, and Saturday are the market days: It has likewiſe two fairs every year, on the twenty fourth of Auguſt, and the ſixth of December.

IT is a very pleaſant city, being an intermixture of trees, houſes, and orchards.

THIS city is govern'd by a mayor, recorder, ſteward, two ſheriffs, twenty four aldermen and a common council, with a town clerk, ſword-bearer, and other inferior officers. The mayor is ſworn in his office on Midſummer-eve with great pomp and ſolemnity.

THE ſheriffs are alſo annually elected, one by the court of aldermen, and the other by the freemen; and the aldermen choſe by the freemen of each ward.

EIGHT

EIGHT wardens of the worſted weavers are annually choſe, four out of the city, and four out of the adjacent country, who are ſworn to take care that no frauds are uſed in ſpinning, weaving, or dying the ſaid ſtuffs.

HERE are four hoſpitals, and many meeting-houſes of all denominations. When we were in the city, there were ſcarce any body to be ſeen; but as it conſiſts chiefly in working people, they were in their rooms and garrets at their daily labour; but we were told that on a Sunday it had quite a different appearance, for that all the doors were throng'd with men, women, and children.

AND I think it in this place very proper to obſerve to you, what advantage theſe working people are in general to the Engliſh nation; they juſt get enough to keep life and ſoul together, as their phraſe is, while great numbers of people who have ſome fortune, but more cunning, get eſtates out of their induſtry. I am,

Your Friend.

LET-

LETTER XIV.

SIR,

WHEN we were at Norwich, the common diſcourſe was about Sir Robert Walpole, who who is firſt miniſter of ſtate to the King of England; he had here both friends and foes; but we were however inform'd that he had a very fine ſeat in the county of Norfolk, call'd Houghton-hall. My curioſity led me to ſee it, and I muſt confeſs, though I ſtaid but a ſhort time there, I ſaw enough to amaze me. Every thing is in the moſt grand manner, the gardens, houſe, painting of an extraordinary value, for I was inform'd Sir Robert employ'd gentlemen to collect for him the beſt painting that could be bought, either in England or in foreign nations; furniture, &c.

nothing, in ſhort, but was very grand and magnificent, even the very lanthorn.

THIS grandeur occaſion'd in me abundance of reflections; that a gentleman from a private eſtate, and that but ſmall, ſhould arrive at ſuch prodigious grandeur. But when we conſider the vaſt places of profit a prime miniſter of England enjoys, and the power he has of diſpoſing of places of profit to others, it is not ſo much to be wonder'd at.

THE ſon of this gentleman is a peer of England, but the father a commoner.

SIR ROBERT WALPOLE is a repreſentative for the town of Lynn Regis in Norfolk, which is a large well built town, of great antiquity; it was incorporated by King John; its privileges enlarged by King Henry, in conſideration of their ſervices againſt the out-law'd barons; ſuch as the election of a mayor, &c. Twelve aldermen, a recorder, a ſword-bearer, and other officers were added to the charter by King Henry VIII. with the election of burgeſſes. It is pretty well inhabited by merchants and tradeſmen: It has two markets a week, Thurſdays and Saturdays.

WE now bent our courſe to St. Edmund's Bury, ſo call'd from its being the burial place of King Edmund the martyr, who was ſhot to death by the Danes, who firſt ty'd him to a tree, and then ſtuck his body full of arrows gradually, for not renouncing the chriſtian faith. This has been the curſe attending all religions, that they preſume to compel men to think like themſelves, or puniſh them with death. But as the ſoul or

mind

mind of man is certainly accountable to none but a ſupreme being, who gave him that ſoul; ſo it is undoubtedly the utmoſt affront to God, to put thoſe to death to whom he gives life to, for not thinking as ignorant, wilful, or ill-natur'd, men ſhall compel them. I don't ſpeak of any particular religion; but the ſuperſtitious, proud, ill-natur'd, and conceited of all ſorts. For as the comfort and ſatisfaction of life conſiſts in an uninterruption of thought, ſo to deprive a man of that pleaſure is to rob him of every thing that is valuable to him in the world.

BUT to return to St. Edmund's Bury; it is a fine large large town, built upon a riſing ground, in an exceeding good air, inhabited by abundance of gentry. Here are a great many good inns, and two coffee-houſes, and one tavern. Here is an old Abbey and two other churches, which are ſcarce ſufficient to contain the inhabitants, who are very numerous.

THIS town is govern'd by an alderman, a recorder, with other ſub-officers, enjoys many privileges, and ſends burgeſſes to parliament, and is the aſſize town for the county of Suffolk. It has a great corn market on Saturdays, which is generally the ſtandard of the whole county of Suffolk; here is likewiſe great plenty of fiſh, pidgeons and wild fowl. It has three fairs in a year, but that on St. Matthew's day is by much the greateſt; for it continues a fortnight, and is frequented by ſome of the beſt company in the whole kingdom.

THIS fair is kept in a place call'd Angel-hill, betwixt the abbey and the town, near which are many of the moſt conſiderable gentlemen's houſes. To this fair the nobility and gentry come every afternoon, where they divert themſelves till it is time to go to the play, which is acted every night; and then to the aſſemblies, which is always kept at ſome gentleman's houſe, during the time of the fair, which is very remarkable for beautiful women; and this is a proper time for intrigues and marriages; and is more properly a market for ladies than merchandizes.

AFTER the diverſion of the fair was over, we took a ride to view the neighbouring country, which is very pleaſant and delightful. Here we ſaw ſeveral fine ſeats: Eaſten-hall, the ſeat of the Duke of Grafton, Chevely, the ſeat of the lord Dover, with ſeveral others, adorn'd with fine gardens, parks, and every thing that can form pleaſure and delight.

IPSWICH is the firſt place of any conſideration we met with after leaving St. Edmund's Bury; it is a very large town, ſituated on a riſing ground, on the banks of the river Orwell or Gyppe, near which the freſh and ſalt water meet.

IN this town are four wards and twelve pariſhes; the ſtreets are large, the houſes old and out of repair, and very indifferently tenanted.

IPSWICH is a town corporate, govern'd by two bailiffs, twelve port men, out of which the two bailiffs are annually choſe, twenty four common

common council, a recorder, town clerk, with ſeveral other ſub-officers. It has three markets every week, Wedneſday, Friday, and Saturday, to which are brought plenty of freſh butter, with all ſorts of proviſions.

It has two fairs yearly, on Good-Friday, and St. George's day.

Here is a good market place, with ſhambles built by cardinal Woolſey, whoſe father was a butcher in this town, and the ſon prime miniſter in the reign of King Henry the eighth, who had both a butcher's and a blackſmith's ſon, the greateſt men in the kingdom; but both fell into diſgrace; and lord Cromwell the blackſmith's ſon was beheaded.

Cardinal Woolsey laid the foundation here for a very magnificent college, but never finiſhed it. The inns are good, and all manner of proviſions cheap. It was once a place of good trade, ſhips of a large ſize having been built here; but it is now quite neglected, and the harbour dry'd up. It is a town without inhabitants, a river without water, and ſtreets without names.

Having order'd our yacht to wait for us at Ipſwich, we reſolv'd to go aboard, and take a little pleaſure upon the water, we therefore left Ipſwich in the county of Suffolk, and directed our courſe to Harwich, in the county of Eſſex; which is a fine ſea port town, ſtrengthned by nature as well as art; three parts of it being encompaſs'd by the ſea and the river Stower.

The

THE town is indeed but ſmall, but very populous; it conſiſts of three ſtreets, which are very neat and clean, the houſes not extraordinary built; but the inns are very commodious; but proviſions are dear, it being greatly reſorted to by ſtrangers, on account of the pacquet boat coming here from Holland.

HARWICH is govern'd by a mayor, annually choſe out of eight aldermen, who with twenty four capital burgeſſes, conſtitute the corporation. The mayor has power to keep admiralty courts, which have juriſdiction over all naval affairs; as alſo for return of writs, fines, &c. It has a market every Tueſday, and two fairs yearly, on the feſtival of St. Philip and Jacob, and St. Luke.

THE King has a very good building yard here for ſhips, with a conveniency for ſtore-houſes, cranes, launches, and all other neceſſaries. The harbour is ſo ſpacious, that there have been at one time a hundred ſail of men of war, beſides four hundred ſail of merchant ſhips.

ABOUT half a mile from the town is a pleaſant walk, call'd Beaconhill, where is a light houſe, from whence there is a proſpect of the coaſt of Suffolk and Eſſex, the town of Harwich and part of Eſſex, with the men of war riding at the gun fleet.

AT the foot of this city is a well which turns wood into metal, of which the beſt copperas is made.

NEAR this town a bloody battle was fought between the Engliſh and the Danes about nine hundred years ago.

FROM

FROM Harwich we hir'd horſes to Colcheſter, which is a city of great antiquity, having been built near two thouſand years. Here Luicus, Helena, and Conſtantine her ſon, the firſt chriſtian emperor and empreſs, were born. It it very commodiouſly and pleaſantly ſituated on the ſouth ſide of the river Coln, about ſix miles from the ſea, on the riſe of a hill, ſtretching itſelf from Eaſt to Weſt. It has ten pariſh churches, the buildings in general good, and the inns commodious.

THIS is the moſt populous town in the county of Eſſex; and the moſt noted in England for bays and ſays; a vaſt quantity of which ſtuffs the Spaniards carry to their ſettlements in America.

IN this manufacture all the neighbouring villages are employ'd, in carding, ſpinning and weaving.

THIS place ſuffer'd prodigiouſly during the war with Spain, many thouſand poor people being depriv'd of their livelihood, and oblig'd to live upon charity. It has likewiſe a great trade for oyſters, being eſteem'd the beſt in England; they are ſent to London in barrels, and from London ſent as preſents to gentlemen who live in the inland countries.

AT the bottom of this town there runs a little river call'd Coln, with three bridges over it, which in three miles courſe makes their harbour, call'd Vevnoe, where the cuſtom-houſe is kept, and their ſhipping comes.

In this town great numbers of the Dutch inhabit, having a church allowed them for divine worſhip in their own language; for they are great ſupports to the bays and ſays trade.

Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, are their market days, the twenty fourth of June, the twenty fifth of July, and the thirteenth day of October, their fairs are kept.

Colchester is govern'd by two bailiffs, twelve aldermen, a recorder, town clerk, with other ſub-officers.

The river is navigable for ſhips of burthen, within three miles of the town, and in that part call'd *The Hithe*, which is cloſe to the houſes, it is navigable for hoys and ſmall barges.

From Cholcheſter we came to an old village call'd Kildane, where the Engliſh began the maſſacre of the Danes, and entirely freed them from thoſe foreign maſters.

From Kildane we came to a little market town call'd Witham, pleaſantly ſituated with good inns, and abundance of gentlemens ſeats round it; amongſt which is Newhall, built by King Henry the eighth. Here is an avenue of trees a mile long and very broad. The houſe is very ſpacious, but having had many maſters, and of courſe ſuffer'd many alterations; it is now an irregular building, but has a large and noble park.

Queen Elizabeth gave it to her favourite the earl of Eſſex; but he having the misfortune to loſe his head, it had various maſters afterwards.

Upon

Upon the reſtoration of King Charles the ſecond from an exile to a throne, General Monk, who had a great ſhare in that reſtoration, and on that account made Duke of Albemarle, purchaſed it for himſelf, but at his death left it in great diſorder, and diſputed among his relations.

In two hours from Witham we arriv'd at Chelmsford, a very pleaſant town, ſituated between two rivers, in the centre of the county of Eſſex: here the courts of juſtice are kept. They have a market once a week, which is on Friday; to which great plenty of proviſions, corn, &c. are brought.

'Tis a well built town, not very large, but populous, it being on the high road from London to the Eaſt. The inns here are very commodious; the inhabitants dreſs genteel, and in general delight much in viſits to one another; by which means 'tis a place of general ſcandal, eſpecially among the women; tho' I muſt tell you, Sir, ſcandal and reflection is a too prevailing vice among the Engliſh women in all places.

From Chelmsford we went through a little market-town call'd Ingerſtone, a pleaſant village call'd Brentwood; a market town call'd Rumford, near which is an old houſe formerly belonging to Queen Elizabeth, and is call'd Giddy-hall.

From Rumford, we went to Wanſtead, near which is a very fine houſe, with large and pleaſant gardens, built by the Earl of Tinley. This houſe is in Epping-foreſt, which is a ſpacious

place, upon level ground for many miles, well planted with trees and ſtock'd with deer.

But not far from this houſe there is a much pleaſanter, the gardens at leaſt are, tho' not ſo large. This houſe belongs to Sir Fiſher Tench.

This ſpacious foreſt at Eping is royal, but ſeldom regarded by the royal family.

On the other ſide the river Lea, is a royal chace call'd Enfield; in which the ranger hath a very ſumptuous lodge; upon the borders of this chace are abundance of pleaſant ſeats; particularly one built by Major General Franks, which commands a moſt delicious proſpect, not only of the country for many miles round; but likewiſe the city of London.

At the entrance of Epping foreſt is a very commodious inn, where we ſtaid about two hours, and refreſh'd ourſelves, and ſet out for London: From the Green-man, we went thro' Leighton-ſtone, a very pleaſant village, with a great many genteel houſes, chiefly belonging to the citizens of London.

We then went thro' Stratford, a very large and populous village; inhabited chiefly by citizens during the Summer.

Bow, is the laſt village in Eſſex or rather in Middleſex, for the greateſt part of it is in Middleſex; here is a ſtrong ſtone-bridge over the river Lee, which divides the two counties.

Mile-end, which I mention'd in a former letter, was the next place we arriv'd at, and from thence to London. I am

S I R, Your Friend and Servant.

LET-

LETTER XV.

SIR,

I HAVE taken another little voyage in our Yatcht. The fame of Scarborough, a place much frequented by the nobility and gentry, on account of its waters, has invited us to see it. We sail'd down the river with a fair wind, by Tilbury fort, Leigh, and Harwich, on the coast of Essex; Aldborough, Dunwich, on the coast of Suffolk, Galston, Yarmouth, Winterton, on the coast of Norfolk. Blankney, Lincolnshire, Spurn Lighthouse, Burlington, Flamborough head, Fylo on the Yorkshire coast; and then to Scarborough; which is in the form of a crescent towards the main ocean, of which there is an unbounded prospect from all parts of the town, which is built on the declivity of a high hill, on the top of which is an ancient

castle

caſtle, which is now gone to ruin; but from its ſituation and remains, we may conclude it was once as ſtrong a fort as any in the kingdom.

THE town is wall'd and moated round, except where it joins to the caſtle or the ſea. The caſtle is of a vaſt extent, and ſtands on a lofty promontory, which runs far into the ſea. There are computed to be upwards of two hundred ſail of ſhips belonging to this place, employ'd in different branches of trade; the fiſhery upon this coaſt being very conſiderable; particularly the herring, turbet, ling, cod-fiſh, haddock, fluke, whiting, mackrel, and lobſters, great quantities of which are ſent every ſeaſon to London.

THE cliffs upon which the caſtle ſtands are of ſuch a prodigious height, that they ſerve for a ſea-mark to the ſhips that ſail from the northern ſeas, and is generally the firſt land-mark they diſcover.

THE ſea ſhore at low tide is here like a bowling green, where is horſe-racing, and other deverſions. For here a great many of the gentry, both in coaches and upon ſaddle-horſes take an airing in a morning.

SCARBOROUGH has been noted ſeveral years for its ſpaw, by the gentry of the north parts of England; as Tunbridge, Epſom, or the Bath for the ſouthern.

THIS water iſſues from the bottom of a large cliff, about a quarter of a mile from the town. They are cathartic and diuretick, and at the time of drinking them communicate a ſenſible alacrity

alacrity and cheerfulneſs to the mind, and vigour to the body.

The ſpaw is kept by a deform'd ſort of a wretch, call'd Dicky Dickinſon; but on account of the familiarity with which ſome of the prime people talk to him, gives him an opportunity of laſhing them more than they like, for he has ſome ſhare of wit. This Dicky Dickinſon rents the well from the corporation, and has built two houſes for the conveniency of the company. As ſoon as any one enters the room, five ſhillings is paid, and the perſon's name wrote in Dicky's book, after which they have the free uſe of his retirements.

At this place both gentlemen and ladies bathe in the ſea. The ladies have gowns and guides; and on the ſhore there are two little houſes to retire to for dreſſing themſelves.

The town is populous, well built, being for the moſt part, uniform, neat, and commodious. The lodgings are reaſonable and well furniſh'd. From the long room is a proſpect over the ſea, and one may ſit in the windows, and ſee the ſhips ſailing at ſeveral leagues diſtance. There is a ball in this room every evening, and the gentlemen pay one ſhilling each. Here is likewiſe gaming, without which it would be no publick place of reſort; for as Geneva is the life and ſoul of the poor people of England; ſo gaming is the life and ſoul of the rich, without which they could not live; yet their bad luck very often makes them hang themſelves. 'Tis a ſort of infectious delirium.

In

IN this town are several ordinaries, which consist of ten or twelve dishes, and the price one shilling. Ladies pay their reckoning here as well as gentlemen; for there is wine generally drank after dinner; but I have been at ordinaries in other places where the ladies pay their reckoning; and indeed it is very reasonable; for perhaps one man has three or four women with him, and another is by himself; and some women, and those not a few, will drink their glass as free as any man, and be very encroaching upon good nature.

SCARBOROUGH is govern'd by two bailiffs, two coroners, four chamberlains, and thirty six burgesses. It has one church, one Presbyterian and one Quaker meeting.

AFTER staying at Scarborough three or four days, we embark'd again for London, from whence I now write this account of our voyage.

Your constant Friend.

LET-

LETTER XVI.

SIR,

HAVING made a party of pleaſure with three or four gentlemen, we ſet out from London to ſee the houſe of the Duke of Chandois, which is about ten miles diſtant from that great city.

THIS houſe, avenues, gardens, ſtatues, painting, ſhew the fine taſte and genius of the maſter. The chapel hath a choir of vocal and inſtrumental muſick; his muſick plays while he is at dinner; and is ſerv'd by gentlemen in very grand order; and is more magnificent than ſome ſovereign German princes.

WE went to the great avenue from the town of Edgar by a fine iron gate, with balluſtrades of iron on each ſide, and two neat lodges in the inſide. This avenue is near a mile long, in

the

the middle of which is a round baſon of water, it fronts an angle of the houſe, and ſhews two fronts at once.

TURNING a little to the left, we came to the great court, which leads to the ſalon and great ſtair caſe, and a little farther to the left to another court, which leads to the back ſtairs. The houſe is built of free ſtone, with four fronts.

THE eaſt front is towards the Parterre and great canal; the weſt towards the gardens; and the ſouth looks through a great area, the offices and ſtables are down another large avenue which ends in a mountain.

THE north front is finely adorn'd with pilaſters and columns of ſtone; above every window in each front is an antique head neatly engrav'd; and upon the top of all the fronts are ſtatues as big as the life.

THE Salon is ſupported by marble pillars, painted by Bellucci, as is likewiſe the great ſtair caſe, which is all of marble; the ſteps are of a great length, each ſtep one piece of marble. This ſtair caſe leads to the apartments fronting the parterre and grand canal, which are plaſter'd and gilt by Pargotti and the cielings painted by Bellucci. Theſe apartments lead to the Duke's dreſſing room and library, fronting the gardens; from thence we deſcend by another pair of ſtairs finely painted, and balluſtraded to the top of the houſe with iron, to a court which opens into the great area to the eaſt; on the right of which is the chapel, and on the left the kitchens; and

and at a ſmall diſtance on each ſide are the ſtables; and the bottom of the area is incloſed with balluſtrades of iron.

THE library is a fine noble room, with a good collection of books. The chapel is exceeding neat, finely painted, gilt, and plaſter'd: Here is a handſome altar piece, and a neat organ. The Duke and Ducheſs have a fine gallery, with a door into it from the apartments above, and a ſtair-caſe that deſcends into the body of the chapel, the windows of which are finely painted.

IN that court which opens into the dining room is a very ſpacious dining-room, in which is a very grand ſide-board of plate; and at the end of it is a room for the muſick.

THE Parterre fronting the weſt is ſeparated from the great avenue and the great court that leads to the ſtair-caſe, by balluſtrades of iron.

THERE is a large terras walk from whence one deſends to the Parterre which hath a row of gilded vaſes or pedeſtals on each ſide of the great canal: In the middle, fronting the canal, is a gladiator; and through the whole Parterre there are abundance of ſtatues as big as life.

THE canal is very long, notwithſtanding there is no water to ſupply it, but what comes from Stanmore, about two miles off.

THE gardens are very large, and kept in fine order; and it being divided by balluſtrades of iron, inſtead of walls, one has a proſpect of the whole at once from all parts of the garden or parterre.

THERE

THERE are very curious bee-hives in the kitchen garden, made of glaſs, through which one may ſee the workmanſhip of thoſe induſtrious animals.

THIS fine building and gardens are watch'd by eight ſergeants of the army, who go their rounds at night, and call the hours; they alſo attend the Duke to chapel.

THE whole is very magnificent; and may become a prince; there being above a hundred ſervants.

THE Engliſh nobility in general live in the greateſt ſplendor imaginable; you may then eaſily imagine what the grandeur of a King of England muſt be, when many of his attendants and the officers of his houſhold are of the beſt noble families. I remain,

Your conſtant friend.

LET-

LETTER XVII.

SIR,

BEING now near the road to Oxford, we determin'd to see that famous University, so struck over from Cannons to Uxbridge, which is a large and populous town well accommodated with inns, and all sorts of houses of entertainment; at the end of it is a river, where abundance of people go from London to angle in; it being remarkable for its large Gudgeons, a fish much admir'd. This town is govern'd by two bailiffs, two constables, and four headboroughs. It has a market on Thursdays, and is well furnish'd with all sorts of provisions; and notwithstanping London is supply'd with most sort of eatables from the country; yet the towns and villages within thirty miles of London are supply'd with butter and cheese from thence; the citizens

citizens having ſhops, to which they come every market-day.

FROM Uxbridge we came to Beaconfield, ſituated on a dry hill, is a good town, and well accommodated with inns.

WE then croſs'd to Aylesbury, which is a pleaſant town, ſituated on a ſmall hill, on a branch of the river Tame, encompaſs'd with rich meadows and paſtures, in which a vaſt number of ſheep are fatted. It is the principal town in the county of Bucks, and here the Aſſizes are generally kept; tho' Buckingham is generally call'd *The county town.*

FROM hence we went to Oxford, that Univerſity ſo famous all over the world.

OXFORD is a place of great antiquity, being conſecrated to the ſciences by the ancient Britains, and tranſlated here from Creek-lade, a town in Wiltſhire, and was the reſidence of the Druids, or Prieſts, which I mention'd in one of my firſt letters. But it is not my preſent deſign to ſearch into antiquities without authority, which is all gueſs-work at beſt, and ſerves rather to create diſputes than be of any ſervice.

IT has undoubtedly ſuffer'd great calamities in common with other places, from the Saxons and Danes; but when the kingdom was a little ſettled, King Elfred built here three colleges for the ſtudy of divinity, philoſophy, and other liberal arts, and ſent his ſon Ethelward thither as an example for young noblemen; which had its deſir'd effect; for it drew them from all parts of

of the kingdom: It now began to hold up its head, and flouriſh apace; till at laſt it arriv'd to its preſent grandeur; it being a fine city, adorn'd with well-built houſes. It has ſeventeen colleges and ſeven halls.

THE three colleges which King Alfred built have been for many years reduc'd to one, which is call'd *Univerſity College*.

BALIOL-COLLEGE, was founded by Devirgilla, daughter of Alexander the third, King of Scots, and wife to John Baliol, of Bernard-caſtle in Yorkſhire, and mother to that John Baliol who conteſted the crown of Scotland with Robert Bruce.

ABOVE the great gate, as one enters the court, are the Royal arms of Scotland, and thoſe of the family of Baliol, and yet there was never any proviſion for Scotſmen in this college, till John Warner, biſhop of Rocheſter in the reign of King Charles the ſecond, in the year 1668. ſettled four Scots fellowſhips, and endow'd them with eighty pounds a year. The library of this univerſity contains the beſt collection of ancient manuſcripts of any private library in the univerſity. Before this college the biſhops Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer after being pronounc'd guilty of hereſy by the ſcholars, were burnt with their books. So that you may ſee, my friend, to what unaccountable heights the ſuperſtitious and hot-headed run in religious diſputes. If Chriſtians burn Chriſtians for differing in ſome religious matters, what encouragement has a man to be a Chriſtian? The Chriſtians have complain'd much

much of perſecutions, yet no religion perſecutes them more than they do one another.

MERTON COLLEGE was founded by William de Merton, lord chancellor to King Henry the third; it was firſt erected at Maldon, near Kingſton in Surrey, and tranſlated to Oxford ten years after by the ſame founder.

EXETER COLLEGE was founded by Walter Stapleton, biſhop of Exeter, who was lord high treaſurer to King Edward the ſecond: It has received ſeveral benefactions from the city of Exeter and the county of Devon; and was deſign'd for the benefit of the weſtern counties.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, was founned by Robert Eglesfield, a private clergyman, chaplain to Philippa, King Edward the third's Queen; 'tis ſaid he built this houſe upon his own land, and at his own expence; but deſiring Queen Philippa to be his patroneſs, he call'd it Queen's-hall. The founder dy'd before it was finiſhed; but it has receiv'd ſeveral royal benefactions. It has been rebuilt of free-ſtone, and is now eſteem'd the moſt beautiful college in the univerſity.

NEW COLELGE was founded by William of Wickham, biſhop of Wincheſter, the ſame who is ſaid to have built Windſor-caſtle, rebuilt the cathedral church at Wincheſter, and the fine ſchool there; the ſcholars of which are the nurſery of this college.

LINCOLN COLLEGE, was founded by Richard Flemming, arch-biſhop of York; but compleated about ſixty years afterwards by Thomas Rotherham, biſhop of Lincoln; of which

place

place Richard Flemming was bishop, before he was translated to York.

All-Souls-College, was founded by Henry Chicheley, arch-bishop of Canterbury, but very much improv'd by Cardinal Pool.

Magdalen College, was founded by William Wainfleet, bishop of Winchester. Very little addition has been made to this college since its first foundation; except a new apartment added by one Mr. Clark, who was many years a member of parliament for this university. Colonel Codrington gave to this college ten thousand pounds and a good collection of books. It was at this college King James the second might have been convinc'd of his error, and sav'd his crown; for he found his subjects would not be compell'd to any thing. Here he told them, *He was their King, and would be obey'd!* but he found to the contrary: For the English people will obey neither King nor any body else, when they find their liberties invaded.

Brazen-Nose-College, was founded by William Smith, bishop of Lincoln; but finished by Richard Sutton Esq; a Cheshire gentlemen: It is a pretty sort of a building, consisting of a cloyster, chapel, publick hall, and a square for lodgings.

Corpus-Christi College, is a beautiful building, and founded by Richard Fox, bishop of Winchester, who was the instrument of bringing the Stuart family to the throne of England, by making up a marriage between the daughter of King Henry the seventh of England, and

and James the ſixth of Scotland, from a branch of which family the preſent King of England is deſcended.

CHRIST-CHURCH COLLEGE, was founded by Cardinal Wooſey, who being diſgraced by King Henry the eighth, could not finiſh it; but that King however finiſhed it, and ſettled a very large income to maintain it. The royal ſchool at Weſtminſter is a nurſery to this college.

TRINITY COLLEGE, begun by Thomas Hatfield, biſhop of Durham, but finiſhed by Sir Thomas Pope, lord mayor of London, about a hundred and eighty years ſince. It makes a grand appearance, its chapel is pav'd with black and white marble, wainſcotted with cedar and walnut tree inlaid, and adorn'd with curious paintings.

THE ſecond court is a ſpacious ſquare of free-ſtone.

SAINT JOHN'S COLLEGE, firſt founded by arch-biſhop Chicheley; but was ſuppreſs'd among other religious houſes, in the reign of Henry the eighth, who was a ſtrange mortal in religion, regarding it no more than as it ſerv'd his own purpoſes; but was nevertheleſs ſtil'd *Defender of the Faith* by the biſhop of Rome; which then indeed ſerv'd the biſhop's purpoſe, King Henry pretending to be a great ſtickler for religion.

IT was afterwards made into a college by Sir Thomas White, a wealthy alderman of the city of London. This college conſiſts of two handſome ſquares, the piazza's of which were built by arch-biſhop Laud, who was beheaded by that rebellious

bellious party, in the reign of King Charles the firſt, father to King James above-mentioned, who loſt his crown. The people in King Charles the firſt's reign were ſo intoxicated with the notion of liberty, that nothing would ſatisfy them but the blood of their King; and took his life away with as much unconcern as if he had been a common houſe breaker or a pick-pocket. No people in the world pretend more loyalty to their King than the Engliſh, and none regard it leſs when they begin to be pinch'd.

JESUS-COLLEGE, for the Welchmen, is ſaid by ſome to be founded by Hugh Price, Eſq; a Welch gentlemen; others ſay it was founded by Queen Elizabeth; but it ſeems very ſtrange, that ſo late a foundation ſhould puzzle people who was the founder. It is however a college for the Welchmen, who are a jeſt to the ſcholars in the other univerſities; Jeering the Welchmen is in general us'd among the Engliſhmen, who hang their patron St. David on his feſtival day, with the utmoſt diſgrace in every corner of the ſtreets about London; which I am very much ſurpriz'd at; for I really think the Welch are as brave and generous a people as ever I met with, and can ſee nothing in them that deſerves ſuch treatment.

WADHAM COLLEGE, founded by Nicholas Wadham Eſq; and Dorothy his wife, ſiſter to the lord Petre of Eſſex; who endow'd it with a conſiderable maintenance. The family of the Petre's reſide now in Eſſex, and are very rich, but make no great figure in the nation, on account of denying the authority of the national church.

THE Theatre and printing houſe at Oxford are of free-ſtone, ſupported by columns of pillars, and finiſhed by Sir Chriſtopher Wren, who built St. Paul's; it coſt fifteen thouſand pounds, which was chiefly paid by arch-biſhop Sheldon. 'Tis eſteem'd one of the fineſt piles of building in the world.

THE printing-houſe was once in the upper part of the theatre; and notwithſtanding there was ſuch a prodigious weight, the printing letters being all ſolid metal; and the force of the preſſes very great; yet this curious piece of architecture was ſupported by the geometrical order of its building. The preſent printing-houſe was built by Mr. Basket the King's printer; but London is the chief place for printing, as indeed it is for every thing elſe.

THE Muſæum Aſhmoleanum is alſo a curious building. In this Muſæum is a fine collecti on of curioſities, Roman antiquities and medals.

THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY, is a very extraordinary one, and much larger than any univerſity in Europe can boaſt of; and is moſt remarkable for its vaſt number of oriental manuſcripts.

To this library Dr. Radcliff an eminent phyſician, left forty thouſand pounds, to build a new room for the diſpoſition of the books. This Dr. Radcliff was ſo remarkable a man in the knowledge of mankind, that it is ſaid he would upon firſt ſight determine whether a perſon could live or die; and particularly I was told, that being ſent for to preſcribe for a young lady who was ſomewhat indiſpos'd; as ſoon as he came into the

the room, look'd upon her, and with a surly accent said, *That she must think of a coffin instead of a husband, for that in two or three days she would certainly die.* This young lady he knew was upon the point of marriage; and told her the worst without hesitation; for in three days she certainly dy'd.

ANOTHER instance I was told, that being in company at a tavern with some gentlemen drinking a chearful glass; he looks at one of the gentlemen, *Sir, says he, go home and make your will, for you will soon be very ill, and certainly die before morning.* The gentleman was much surpriz'd, declaring he was never in a better state of health in the whole course of his life; but he was at last persuaded to take a chair, in which he was taken very sick before he could reach home, and according dy'd before morning. The method Dr. Radcliff took to make himself known in the world, is something very merry. He hir'd men out of service, who had got livery-clothes, to go to the most noted coffee-houses, and enquire whether Dr. Radcliff was there; he being so much call'd upon, every one thought he must be an eminent man, tho' perhaps he had not had a patient for a week: and thus he rais'd himself. He would likewise order his own servant to fetch him out of church in the midst of the service, when every one was intent upon their prayers, which would make a strange whispering, *Dr. Radcliff is sent for, &c.* Thus you see, my friend, what arts the most ingenious men are oblig'd to make use of, before they can make their just

merit known to the world. And I may venture to say, that many a great and useful genius is lost in England, for want of money, friends, or some lucky turn to make themselves known.

THERE is a fine physick garden belonging to the university of Oxford, consisting of about five acres of ground; which contains many thousand useful plants, for the improvement of botanical studies, and vegetative philosophy

THUS Sir, I have given you the best description I can of this seminary of learning, which is known by report all over the world. But one thing I can't help observing to you, which is, that the young noblemen here are under very little restriction, by which means they neglect their studies, and live a life of debauchery; and are by this means very unfit for conversation when they set out upon their travels. I am,

SIR,

Your Friend and Servant.

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LETTER XVIII.

SIR,

THE fame of Woodſtock, the ſeat of the victorious Duke of Marlborough, rais'd our curioſity to ſee it; being but a ſmall diſtance from Oxford. It is call'd Blenheim-houſe, on account of the great victory obtain'd at Blenheim, againſt the French, by that great general.

IT ſtands in a large park, famous for being the place where King Henry the firſt of England built a palace, and kept a beautiful miſtreſs, call'd *Fair Roſamond*; whoſe skin was of ſuch an extraordinary clearneſs, that it is ſaid, the colour of the liquor ſhe drank might be ſeen as it went down her throat: ſhe was poiſon'd in her bower by Queen Eleanor; but it is nothing extraordinary

for a wife to vent her malice upon her husband's miſtreſs; beſides, as the circumſtances of this ſtory vary, and is foreign to my preſent purpoſe, I ſhall go on with the deſcription of the place as it is at preſent.

We aſcended to the houſe through a long and large avenue, over a bridge of one arch, from which we came into an open court; on the right were the ſtables and offices belonging to them; and the kitchen, brewhouſe, bakehouſe, waſhhouſe on the left; each hath a ſpacious court piazz'd, for the convenience of the ſervants paſſing from one office to the other. There is a great gate at the entrance of theſe courts, each under a handſome tower.

An open gallery, ſupported by pillars, joins theſe offices to the body of the houſe. This front of the houſe with the offices make a ſemicircle: Over the door is the figure of Pallas, and behind here are two ſlaves chain'd, bigger than life; over the open galleries which join the offices are nine fine ſtatues on each ſide.

The front towards the garden is very large and noble; which we enter'd by a great common hall, which is to be all painted, and a ſpacious ſalon behind it, and a gallery above for muſick, which is open to both. The great gate or portico from the court comes into the hall, and that of the ground is the ſalon.

On the right from the hall we paſs'd by ſeveral arches ſupported by pillars, to a large and long gallery, in which the duke deſign'd to place a fine parcel of pictures from Italy; and thoſe he brought

brought himſelf from Germany and Flanders. From the end of this gallery which fronts the garden, are nine noble ſtate-rooms, exceedingly rich furniſhed; the door caſes of different ſorts of marble. From theſe ſtate rooms the Duke's and Dutcheſs's apartment reach to the gallery which joins to the kitchens.

In the dining room of this apartment is a bow window, from which are ſeveral pleaſant proſpects; and the long galleries are ſo contriv'd, that when the doors of the ſtate rooms are open, you may ſee from one into another, and through the whole into the garden.

There is a mathematical ſtone ſtair in each wing, which leads to the apartments above; but there is no large ſtair-caſe.

The gardens are very large, containing above twenty acres of land, in which is a large gravel walk, large enough for a coach to drive freely. About the middle of this walk, on each ſide, are two large baſons of water, with water-works.

In theſe gardens are nine or ten different proſpects through avenues in the park; and from the cupola on the top of the houſe is a fine proſpect for twenty miles round.

We are told that in Woodſtock park is an eccho, which in calm weather returns ſeventeen ſyllables diſtinctly, and in the night-time twenty.

The town of Woodſtock joins to the park, about half a mile diſtant from Blenheim-houſe, which is a neat town, with good inns, and is much reſorted to by foreigners, on account of

ſeeing this famous ſeat. The town is well pav'd, and ſends two members to parliament.

It has a market every Tueſday, and has three fairs in a year.

In the town of Woodſtock *Edward the black Prince* was born.

LETTER XIX.

SIR,

WE left Blenheim, with a deſign to go to Bath, and going over a fine down, in two hours arriv'd at Helthrop, a fine ſeat of the Duke of Shrewsbury; pleaſantly ſituated upon an eminence in the middle of a park.

From hence we rode over a pleaſant Down about twelve miles long; from whence we had a fine proſpect of Glouceſterſhire, Oxfordſhire, and Warwickſhire. Within ſix miles of Glouceſterſhire is a place call'd Burtuphill, where we had an extenſive view over the vale of Eſham, above Worceſter city, which we reſolv'd to ſee. This vale is eſteem'd one of the fineſt ſpots of land

land in the kingdom of England; being one continu'd ſcene of plenty; tho' in the winter time it is a very bad way for ſtrangers.

WORCESTER, is pleaſantly ſituated upon the banks of the Severn, over which is a fine ſtone bridge; it is a place of great antiquity, and has felt the ſevere effects both of war and fire. It was firſt built by the Romans, to ſecure themſelves againſt the aſſaults of the Britains, who poſſeſs'd all the land on the other ſide of the Severn. It is govern'd by a mayor, ſheriff, ſix aldermen, ſeventy two common council men, two chamberlains, a recorder, town clerk, and other ſub-officers. The ſtreets are the moſt pleaſant of any town I have ſeen in England.

FROM Worceſter we went to Shrewsbury, which is a fine pleaſant clean town, and may vie with many cities, both for its populouſneſs, largeneſs of ſtreets, and neatneſs of building, both publick and private. It is a town deſign'd by nature for ſtrength, and was once ſo by art; but as this iſland is now free from foreign wars, its whole ſtrength depends upon ſhipping: therefore all inſland fortifications are entirely neglected.

SHREWSBURY is a place of great reſort, both by Engliſh and Welch, where both ſpeeches are talk'd; and it is common, when people are bargaining for goods, to ſpeak part Engliſh and part Welch. This town enjoyeth a conſiderable trade for clothes, cottons, and frizes, and variety of other commodities. Here are three markets in a Week, Wedneſdays for proviſions, Thurſ-

days for Welch cottons, great quantities of which are ſent to London, and Saturdays for proviſions, which are very cheap.

It is the grand market between England and middle Wales. Here is a large free-ſchool for the education of youth.

It is govern'd by a mayor, twenty four aldermen, and forty eight common council men, a recorder, ſteward, and town clerk; and hath two printing-houſes.

From Shrewsbury we went to ſee St. Winefrid's well in Flintſhire, one of the Welch counties.

It is a place of great note for people to bathe in, it being eſteem'd a ſovereign remedy for diſeaſes of the body. It is viſited by pilgrims of all nations, who come here to pay their devotions to St. Winifred, who was a beautiful young virgin, much ſollicited by a prince of this country, to ſubmit to his luſt; but after many ſollicitations to no purpoſe, he deſpair'd of ever gaining his ends; therefore took the opportunity at this place when ſhe was alone, to ſurprize and raviſh her; then murder'd her, and cut off her head: and out of the ſpot of ground where this virgin was murder'd, ſprung forth a ſpring, which remains to this day, with ſo rapid a ſtream, that at a ſmall diſtance it is able to drive a mill. Moſs of a ſweet and pleaſant ſmell grows in this well, which the country people told us was St. Winefred's hair. But according to the hiſtory of this virgin painted on a glaſs window, in a chappel at the head of this well, her head was ſet

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on again by one St. Beuno. These head-setters would be clever sort of folks in our days. But I leave you to make what judgment you please, both on the original of the well; as likewise St. Beuno. This place is generally call'd *Holy Well.*

From hence we turn'd our course to Chester, one of our company having business in that city. It is likewise call'd West-chester on account of its situation in the west of England. It is a place of great antiquity, said to be built by one Leon Gauer, a huge giant, that liv'd beyond the moon; and who subdu'd the Picts; but I look upon such stories to be all fabulous, a great part of which has nothing but verbal tradition and wives tales to support them; the truth being lost in a course of time.

Chester is however at present a fine city, pleasantly situated on the river Dee, over which is a fine stone bridge with seven arches, at each end of which is a gate. Its form is quadrangular, and about two miles in circumference, enclos'd with a wall of some strength. It hath four gates, according to the four cardinal points, viz. East-gate, which is esteem'd one of the finest gates in England, Bridge-gate, Water-gate, and North-gate, which last is made use of as a prison for debtors. There are three other gates of less note call'd Posterns; and on the wall are watch-towers, and broad battlements for placing pieces of cannon.

On the south part towards the bridge is a castle situated on a rocky hill, in which is a Shire-

Shire-hall, resembling that of Westminster; where all matters of law in this county Palatine are heard and determin'd, having particular officers of their own, viz. a Chamberlain, a Justice for the Common-pleas of the crown, two Barons of the Exchequer, Sheriff, an Escheator, and other officers. At the end of the hall is an Exchequer for the county. About the middle of Water-gate-street, is the King's custom-house, which is likewise call'd, The King's store-house.

This city is not the most beautiful, but it is a great place of trade, particularly the cheese factory; and here people generally take shipping for Dublin the capital city of Ireland; tho' Holly head in Wales, is the place where the pacquet boats from Ireland arrive at.

It is supply'd with fresh water from the water tower at the bridge, thirty five yards high, and eight broad. Along the chief streets are rows with shops on both sides, built in such a manner that one may walk when it rains ever so fast, without being wet; tho' the open buildings in London are more healthy than these.

The King of England's eldest son is always Earl of Chester.

It is govern'd by a Mayor, and two Sheriffs, twenty four Aldermen, a Recorder, town Clerk, Sergeant of peace, four Sergeants, and six Yeomen; and here is once a year a show in some manner resembling that of the Lord Mayor's of London. This city sends two members to par-

parliament; and is the only city or borough in the county that ſends any.

EDGAR, an ancient King of England, had a palace in this city, to which he was row'd by ſeven Kings from among the Scots and Britains; while he, as their ſupreme lord, ſteer'd at the helm.

THERE is a very odd ceremony obſerv'd in this city every year among the muſicians, which is worth notice, and had its original as follows:

RANULPH, the ſixth earl of Cheſter, after the Norman Conqueſt, gain'd many advantages over Lewellen, prince of Wales; but was at laſt forc'd to take refuge in the caſtle of Rathen, from whence he ſent to the conſtable of Cheſter for aſſiſtance, who call'd all his friends together, and deſir'd them to make as large a body as they could, and go with him. Ralph Dutton, his ſon-in-law, aſſembled all he could, and among the reſt the muſicians; and then march'd out with the conſtable againſt the Welchmen, who were ſurpriz'd at ſuch a number of muſicians, thinking there muſt be a great army at hand; and therefore immediately fled.

THE earl being by this contrivance deliver'd out of danger, granted to the aforeſaid Ralph Dutton and his heirs, the ordering all muſicians within the county of Cheſter, which has been enjoy'd and obſerv'd by his heirs in the following manner.

EVERY Midſummer-day, which is call'd, *The meeting of minſtrils*, the heir of Dutton, or his ſteward, hangs out his banner, or arms, where the

the feaſt is kept; then he diſpatches a drummer to give notice in the ſtreets, for all perſons to appear at the place appointed, between the hours of ten and eleven in the forenoon. Moſt of the gentlemen of the county being then mounted, all muſicians that deſire liberty to play in this city or country, play before them, with trumpets ſounding; the ſteward carrying a ſtaff in his hand, with the banner of Dutton, borne before him by one of the chief muſicians; and after him a man dreſs'd in imitation of an herald. At ſome diſtance comes the lord or heir of Dutton, and at Eaſt-gate makes a proclamation; after which they proceed to St. John's Church, where the ſteward calls for all the loud muſick, who kneel down and play ſeveral ſolemn leſſons; which done, divine ſervice is read; after which the ſteward entertains them nobly; and in the afternoon empannels a jury among them; where he gives them a charge, *To enquire concerning any treaſon againſt the King, Prince or Earl of Cheſterfield; and whether any man has exercis'd his inſtrument without licence from the lord of that court; whether any one is guilty of miſdemeanours, or whether any among ſt them have ſpoke diſreſpectfully of their lord and patron, the heir of Dutton.* After the jury have given their verdict, licences are granted to all, who are thought worthy, to uſe their muſical inſtruments within the ſaid city and county palatine for one whole year.

Not far from the city of Cheſter is the foreſt of Delamere, where once was a city, but has many

years been reduc'd to ruin : the place where it ſtood being by the inhabitants now call'd, *The Chamber of the Foreſt.* I am,

SIR,

Your Friend and Servant.

LETTER XX.

SIR,

WE embark'd on board a ſloop at Cheſter down the river Dee, and ſailing along the Cheſhire coaſt arriv'd at Leverpoole which is a fine place of trade, commodiouſly ſituated on the river Merſey, but the water is ſalt. Here is a fine ſafe harbour for ſhips, here being four fathom water at low tide; and this river is navigable many miles into the country, and affords abundance of all ſorts of fowl and fiſh, great plenty of which are brought to market every Saturday: As likewiſe corn, cattle, ſheep, horſes, and variety of all ſorts of proviſions. Here are particularly vaſt quantities of Smelts, which

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is a fish much in esteem, and here you may frequently buy as many of them for a penny as you can in London for five shillings. It is an ancient corporation, is govern'd by a mayor, bailiffs, aldermen, recorder, town clerk, and common council. Those who are free of this town have a privilege of being freemen of the city of Bristol; as likewise of Waterford and Westford, in Ireland.

THERE are in Leverpool abundance of very wealthy merchants, whose houses are finely built; their chief trade is to the West-Indies; the commodities proper for that county being here cheaper than in any other part of England. Near the town-house is a convenient exchange for merchants.

PRESTON; at this place the people wear such fine cloaths, and are so very haughty in their manners, that 'tis call'd *Proud Preston*. It is situated on the side of a river, over which is a fine stone bridge, its streets are large, and open, and finely pav'd, and the houses well built, and it hath three markets weekly, viz. Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

IN this town are held the courts of chancery, and offices of justice for the county palatine of Lancaster. It is govern'd by a mayor and twenty four common-council.

MANCHESTER, is a town of great antiquity, is large, beautiful and well inhabited. Here is a great trade for linnen and woolen cloths, and cottons. It has a fine collegiate church, a college, and market place, and has a fine market

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on Saturdays, both for the commodities of the town, as likewiſe for proviſions of all ſorts.

LANCASTER, the county town, is pleaſantly ſituated on the ſide of a river, over which is a fine ſtone bridge with five arches. Notwithſtanding this is the county town it is very little frequented, being chiefly inhabited by farmers and the poorer ſort of country people.

WE now proceeded on our journey thro' the inland countries, and firſt into Staffordſhire, where we rode over many heaths and moors, the whole country being a barren ſort of a place. Here are abundance of conies and deer; and it has plenty of rivers abounding with fiſh, and are frequented in the winter-ſeaſon by all ſorts of water-fowls, and Swans in great plenty. It is likewiſe a fine country for hawking and hunting.

STAFFORD is the county town, ſituated amongſt meadows, on the river Sowe, over which there is a bridge. The ſtreets are large and pav'd, and the buildings pretty good. There is a fine ſquare market place; in which is the Shire-hall, and ſerves for a market-houſe; it has likewiſe a free ſchool. It has a market on Saturdays, which is well ſerv'd with corn and proviſions.

LICHFIELD, is a city and county of itſelf, ſituated in a pleaſant champain country, is of great antiquity; and was once call'd, *The field of dead bodies*, on account of the great number of Chriſtians ſlain by order of Diocleſian the Roman Emperor. It is near an ancient Roman way call'd

call'd *Watling ſtreet*, which enters this county about Falſey into Shropſhire; and Skeneld, which leads thro' it into Warwickſhire. The buildings are indifferent, the ſtreets pav'd and kept clean, and is much frequented by gentry. Here is a free grammar ſchool for the education of youth, and an hoſpital for the relief of the poor.

It is govern'd by two bailiffs, a ſheriff, a recorder, town clerk, and other ſub-officers. Here are two markets, viz. on Wedneſdays and Fridays, to which are brought plenty of corn and proviſions.

New-caſtle-under-Line, is a large town, the ſtreets broad and pav'd, but the houſes are low and generally thatch'd. I make particularly mention of this place, becauſe there is another New-caſtle in Northumberland, call'd *New-caſtle upon Tyne*.

We took a long tour thro' all this part of England, into Derbyſhire, Warwickſhire, Lincolnſhire, Yorkſhire, the biſhoprick of Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, and Weſtmoreland.

Derbyshire, is ſeated near the middle of England, but inclining towards the north, which in ſome parts produces very good corn and graſs, which feeds great numbers of ſheep which are brought to London market. Here is likewiſe good barley, and a great deal of this country ale is drank in London. The river Derwent divides this county into eaſt and weſt; on the eaſt is coal, and on the weſt lead mines.

DERBY is the county town, and of the moſt note, ſituated on the the river Derwent, over which is a ſtone-bridge. It is a large, populous, well frequented and rich town. The chief trade here is for barley, which is made into malt, and brings conſiderable profit. Here is a fine hall of free-ſtone, where the aſſizes are kept. It is govern'd by a mayor, fourteen brethren, fourteen common council, a recorder, town clerk, &c. and enjoys great privileges; its inhabitants being free from toll at London.

IT has three markets in a week, Wedneſday, Friday, and Saturday; but the Friday market is much the greateſt, for corn, cattle, and proviſion.

CHESTERFIELD, is pleaſantly ſituated between two ſmall rivers. It is a town of great antiquity, and is govern'd by a mayor, ſix aldermen a recorder, ſix brethren, twelve counſellers, and two chamberlains. Here is a fine large market place, to which are brought large quantity of corn, lead, and all ſorts of proviſions every Saturday.

NEAR this town was a battle fought by King Henry the third and his rebellious barons, in which Robert de Ferrers, the laſt Earl of Derby of that Family, was taken priſoner, and ſtript both of honour and eſtate; and nothing left him but his life, which is of very little value, when a man is depriv'd both of his honour and fortune.

THERE are in this county two great bridges over the river Trent; Swarkeſton bridge is near

a mile in length, and hath thirty nine arches; but a great deal of it is rather a cauſe-way than a bridge.

BURTON bridge has thirty five large ſtone arches, and is much better than Swarkeſton.

AT this bridge Edward the ſecond routed the Earl of Lancaſter and many of the barons.

THERE are in Derbyſhire ſeveral mineral waters, particularly Buxton wells, where in the compaſs of eight or nine yards iſſueth out of a rock nine ſprings, eight of which are warm, and one cold. They are very pleaſant to bathe in; but thoſe in Somerſetſhire are much more frequented by the nobility and gentry than theſe, and much better accommodated with lodgings and entertainment.

IN Kidlaſton park is a well, much of the nature of that of Knaresborough in Yorkſhire, which is good for old ulcers, and is taken both inwardly and outwardly.

AT Quarndon, about a mile and a half from Derby are two ſprings, much of the ſame nature of thoſe at Tunbridge in Kent, and the ſpaws in Yorkſhire, being as ſtrong of the mineral, and as effectual in operation.

NEAR Wirkſworth there is a warm ſpring, and a cold ſpring, ſo near each other, that one hand may be put in the cold, and the other in the warm at the ſame time.

WHILE we were in this county, we thought it would not be like travellers without ſeeing *The Peak*, thoſe wonders in nature; ſo famous all over the world.

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THE firſt wonder ſhown us here, was a high hill, call'd mount Tor, which ſhoots out ſuch plenty of ſtones, that the noiſe of them are heard at ſome miles diſtance; yet the mountain ſeems never to decay, though it hath continu'd ſo time immemorial.

ELDON'S-HOLE, or *The bottemleſs Pit*, is the next our guide ſhew'd us, which is a terrible opening of the earth almoſt a mile deep, and is narrow at top and bottom, and wide in the middle. We were told, that the famous earl of Leiceſter, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, hir'd a man to go down in a basket, ballaſted with ſtone, to try the depth of it. After they had let him down about three hundred yards, they pull'd him up ſenſeleſs and ſpeechleſs, and he dy'd of a phrenſy a few days after.

THE next wonder is *Weeding Well*, or *Tide's Well*, a ſpring which ebbs and flows as the ſea does; it is about a yard in diameter, and its depth much the ſame. But the learned are divided in their opinions concerning the true riſe and fall of this ſpring, and ſome deny it has any communication with the ſea.

POOL'S-HOLE, next engag'd our attention, a cave, at the foot of a large mountain, call'd Coitmoſs; the entrance into which is by a ſmall arch, ſo low, that thoſe who will venture into it muſt creep upon all fours for ſome time; but then it is of a conſiderable height, and like the roof of a large cathedral. On the right is a hollow cavern, call'd *Pool's chamber*, where we went over ridges and rocks of ſtone, where are

many repreſentations of art and nature, produced by the petrefying water continually dropping from the roof and ſides of the rock: Here is curious fret work, much like ſome ſea ſhells; organ and choir work; the figures of animals, as a Lion, a Dog, with many other beaſts, which the mind may ſuggeſt, much like thoſe we ſee in the fire, of a winter's evening; with which children will divert themſelves for a long time, producing ſo many things, till at laſt a Salamander comes, and frightens them all. This Peak is undoubtedly a ſtrange ſort of a place, but then the figures occaſion'd by the petrefying water before mention'd, are the mere effect of imagination.

A little farther we came to the pillar of the Queen of Scots, which is as bright as alabaſter; we went on farther to a ſteep aſcent, near a quarter of a mile high, which terminates near the roof in a hollow, call'd *The Needle's eye*; here the guide places his candle, which looks like a ſtar in the firmament.

THERE we fir'd a piſtol, the noiſe of which was ſo much increaſed by the hollowneſs of the cave, that it ſeem'd to be the report of a cannon.

HAVING now got as far as we could, we return'd another way, through many ſmall currents of water. As ſoon as we came out of this dark cavern, ſome poor women met us with water and herbs to cleanſe us from any filth that might be lodg'd on our clothes.

THERE

THERE are various conjectures about the name of this cave, ſome ſay, that Pool, who gave it that name was a notorious thief, who being outlaw'd, fled from juſtice, and took up his reſidence here. Others again ſuppoſe he was ſome hermit, who reſolving to live a melancholy life, retir'd into the cell, where I muſt confeſs he might live melancholy enough.

Now we come to *The Devil's arſe of Peak*, a phraſe much us'd by the Engliſh, when they go in ſearch of a place which proves further and more difficult to be found than expected.

IT may indeed be call'd *The Devil's Arſe*; for no human creature would live in it; and yet it ſeems to be ſome old hermit's cave; ſo ſtrange an antipathy had ſome men to the world, that they had rather live in a moſt diſmal cave, without convenient food or raiment, than converſe with mankind.

THIS *Devil's Arſe* is a wide ſubteraneous cavern, running under a hill near Caſtleton; its capacious at the entrance; but grows more narrow the farther we go in. The top of it is high, and appears like a fine arch, with ſtones of various colours and ſomewhat reſembling the buttocks of a man; and therefore call'd *The Devil's Arſe*. But whether the Devil's arſe was ever ſeen I leave you to to judge; or whether any man living knows what ſhape he is of? or of what he is made? and whether he has any arſe or not? But however, *The Devil's Arſe* it is call'd; and from it there drops a ſparry water, which petrefies like that in *Poole's-hole*.

WITHIN

WITHIN the arch are ſeveral ſmall buildings where poor people inhabit, and are ready at all times to attend ſuch travellers who are deſirous to ſearch into theſe ſatanical territories.

AFTER we had got a little way into this cave, we found it very dark and ſlippery, by reaſon of a current of water which runs along it, and here the rock hangs ſo ſloping that we were oblig'd to ſtoop. But after we had paſs'd this place and a brook adjoining, the arch open'd itſelf again, and brought us to a ſecond current with large banks of ſand; and here we come to a third current, which is impaſſable, and then the rock cloſes.

THERE goes a report that a ſhepherd travel'd over all theſe currents and caverns, and arriv'd in a plentiful country, with fine rivers and verdant meadows and paſtures. But theſe rivers and paſtures could never induce any body to venture to take poſſeſſion of them; ſuch ſtories being in general look'd upon as fabulous.

THE river Avon runs in many turnings and windings thro' the whole county of Warwickſhire, in which is great plenty of iron, wood, and wool; and *The vale of Red-horſe* produces abundance of corn.

COVENTRY is the greateſt town of trade in this county, and noted for ſtuffs. Notwithſtanding this town is in Warwicſhire, yet is of itſelf a county incorporate, and has a court for hearing cauſes, and trying felons. It is a very neat city, well built, and the court kept in good order. Here is a croſs of very curious workmanſhip,

workmanſhip, of which the inhabitants are very proud. It has a great market on Fridays, for corn, cattle, and proviſions.

THIS city having in ancient times committed ſome offence againſt one Leofrick Lord of this part of the country, he impos'd very ſevere taxes upon them; but the wife of the ſaid Leofrick, nam'd Godiva, rode thro' the city naked in the middle of the day, to reſtore them their liberties, and eaſe them from their heavy taxes. This, tho' a penance few modeſt women would perform, yet ſhe did it with much cheerfulneſs, imagining the good ſhe did to the inhabitants made ſufficient amends for her breach of modeſty in expoſing her naked body.

I CAN'T account for the opinions of thoſe times; but I'm ſure it would be an amazing thing now, for a prince firſt to load his ſubjects with intolerable taxes; and then diſgrace himſelf ſo far, as to ſuffer his wife's naked body to be expos'd, to take them off again. 'Tis an accountable way of leſſening taxes! But every age has its cuſtoms; and what is done now, tho' unregarded by ourſelves, may be the wonder of future ages.

WARWICK, is a town of ſome note, with ſpacious ſtreets and well-built houſes; it has a free ſchool, a good hoſpital for decay'd gentlemen, and a very ſtately market-houſe built of free-ſtone, ſupported by ſeveral pillars. It is govern'd by a mayor, twelve brethren, twenty four common council, a recorder, and other ſub-officers.

NEAR Warwick is a place call'd Guy-cliff, very delightfully ſituated amongſt groves and brooks; and here the famous Guy Earl of Warwick built a chapel after many noble exploits, as killing a wild boar, a very miſchievous cow, &c. and here he lies bury'd, after retiring from the world for ſome time before he dy'd.

FROM Warwickſhire we went thro' Harborough into Leiceſterſhire, a town, ſeated on the Welland. It has a pretty good market on Tueſdays for corn, cattel and proviſions.

WE paſs'd thro' Rutlandſhire, which is the ſmalleſt county in England, into Lincolnſhire.

LINCOLN is an ancient city, pleaſant ſituated on the ſide of a hill, on the river Witham, over which are ſeveral bridges; King Edward the third fix'd this place to be his ſtaple mart for wool, leather, and lead.

IN this city Vortimer, who often had repell'd the Saxons died, and was interr'd; though his deſire was to be buried in the ſea-ſhoar; imagining the very thoughts of his ghoſt would frighten the Saxons from making any farther attempts upon Britain.

NEAR this city the famous Prince Arthur beat the Saxons; as did Edmund Ironſides the Danes, with a very great ſlaughter.

HERE was likewiſe a great battle fought betwen King Stephen and the earl of Cheſter, in defence of Maud the Empreſs; in which the King being taken priſoner, was ſent to Briſtol, and there laid in irons.

ANOTHER

ANOTHER battle was fought between King Henry the third, and his diſloyal Barons, in which the King routed the barons, and took many of them priſoners.

THIS city is pretty well inhabited, and has a very good market on Fridays, well ſtor'd with all ſorts of proviſions; and the ſhops well ſtock'd with various ſorts of uſeful commodities, both for dreſs and furniture. Its cathedral is one of the fineſt in England, and of ſuch a height, that it may be ſeen at thirty or forty miles diſtance.

LINCOLN is govern'd by a mayor, two ſheriffs, twelve aldermen cloth'd in ſcarlet, a recorder, town clerk, four chamberlains, a ſword-bearer, four ſerjeants at mace, &c. It is a county of itſelf, and is call'd, *The county of the city of Lincoln.*

STAMFORD, ſeated on the river Welland, on the edge of Northamptonſhire, and the road to Yorkſhire; is a town of great antiquity; for in the time of Edward the third here was a college for the profeſſors of the arts and ſciences.

THE inhabitants have a conſiderable trade for malt, and free-ſtone.

IT is govern'd by a mayor, aldermen, recorder, and ſub-officers; it is the grand reſort of the gentlemen and ladies, who have a great many ſeats in this part of the country.

HERE are two markets in a week, Mondays and Fridays, yet the latter moſt conſiderable for corn, living cattle, and all ſorts of proviſions; that on Mondays being but little regarded.

THIS is the beſt town in Lincolnſhire.

THE weſt and north parts of Lincolnſhire are very fertile and pleaſant, abounding with rich paſtures, from whence the fineſt oxen in England are fatted, and brought to Smithfield-market in London; but the eaſt and ſouth parts are fenny and barren, but produce plenty of fiſh and water fowl. The air in theſe parts is very unwholeſome, occaſion'd by the thick fogs which riſe from the fenny ground; and here are ſeveral ſalt water inlets and ſands, which make it dangerous travelling.

HAVING made what obſervations we could in this county, we proceeded to Yorkſhire, which is the largeſt county in England; and in a fine healthy clear air, the inhabitants are particularly noted for being very ſharp and cunning.

BUT I forgot to obſerve to you one thing worth notice, whilſt we were at Leiceſter; which is, that from this town *Crook-back'd Richard* march'd with great pomp and force to Redmore, near Boſworth, where a bloody battle was fought betwixt him and Henry of Richmond, for deciding the differences between the houſes of York and Lancaſter; in which battle Richard was ſlain, and left the victorious Henry maſter of the field and the Engliſh dominions. The next day the body of Richard was brought to Leiceſter with the greateſt ignomy, being laid naked croſs a horſe's back, much torn and mangled; it was afterwards buried in the Grey-Friars of Leiceſter, which being afterwards deſtroy'd his Sepulchre,

chre, which was a ſtone cheſt, ſerves at an inn for the horſes drinking trough.

But to return to Yorkſhire, after paſſing the Humber, Hull was the firſt place we arriv'd at, which is ſometimes call'd *Kingſton upon Hull*. It is a large town, well built, and the ſtreets pav'd. It is a town of good trade, and much reſorted to by merchants; and Hull has a ſtreet much reſembling that part of Thames-ſtreet near London-bridge, where are ſold pitch, tar, cordage, ſails, and all other neceſſaries for ſhips, here being a Cuſtom-houſe and Key, and is not inferior for trade to any in England, except London and Briſtol. It is ſeated on the mouth of the river Hull, where it falls into the Humber; and is a place of great ſtrength, both by ſea and Land. This was the firſt place that ſhut its gates againſt King Charles the firſt.

It is a town and county of it ſelf, and is govern'd by a mayor, aldermen, and common-council.

It has ſhambles with proviſions every day in the week; and has a great market every Saturday.

In theſe ſeas are taken great plenty of herrings, which are profitable to the inhabitants.

York is the firſt city in England in priority, next to London.

In this city Severus the Roman Emperor kept his palace, and here died; his body being burnt to aſhes, according to the cuſtom of thoſe times, and ſent to Rome, where it was put among the monuments of the Antonines.

HERE likewiſe Conſtantius dy'd, and his ſon Conſtantine was proclaim'd Emperor.

IT is a beautiful city, adorn'd with many buildings, both publick and private, very populous, and a great reſort for gentry, and wealthy tradeſmen. The minſter or cathedral is a very magnificent building. It is not only a place of great trade, but is likewiſe pleaſantly ſituated on the river Owſe, over which is a ſtone-bridge with five arches, one of which is very large. It is a place of great ſtrength, but was reduc'd by the parliament forces in the reign of King Charles the firſt, after the King's forces, under the command of Prince Rupert, were defeated at Marſton Moor, not far from York; in which victory Oliver Cromwell, afterwards protector of England, had a great ſhare.

THIS battle gave the deciſive ſtroke; the the King's forces made no figure afterwards, but loſt ground every where. The ſucceſs was for ſome time on the King's ſide; but Oliver at laſt quite routed them.

YORK is govern'd by a lord mayor, like London, has twelve aldermen in ſcarlet, two ſheriffs, twelve common council men, eight chamberlains, a recorder, town clerk, ſword bearer, and common ſerjeants, who with a great mace goes on the left hand of the ſword, as at London.

Here is plenty of proviſions every day in the week; but Thurſdays and Fridays are the market days.

AT Coninsborough, there was a bloody battle fought between the Engliſh Saxons and the Britains;

tains; where Hengiſt, captain of the Saxons, was ſlain.

At a ſmall town call'd Sherborne, we were told a ſtory of a gentlemen who was much addicted to gaming; and being reſolv'd to hazard his whole eſtate with another gentlemen, appointed a place with their ſwords drawn upon the table, with only each his ſervant preſent. The former had loſt all he had, except his eſtate, call'd *Sherborne* in Glouceſterſhire, at which time his footman perceiving a looking-glaſs behind him, in which his antagoniſt could ſee every card he had in his hand, ſaid to his maſter, *Sir, do you ſee the glaſs behind you?* Then ſhut the door and run away; which ſav'd his maſters laſt ſtake: This is ſuch a traditional ſtory, that we were told the very boys in Glouceſterſhire, when their laſt play-thing is at ſtake, ſay, *Sherborne is up!*

When we were at Whitby, the people told us a ſtory of a lady Abbeſs of this place, whoſe life was ſo innocent, that ſhe wrought miracles; and in particular, that this place being at that time infeſted with ſnakes, ſhe conjur'd them by her prayers all into the ſea. There are indeed ſtones ſometimes found in the ſea ſands, near this place reſembling ſnakes, without heads; which might induce ignorant people to beleive St. Hilda pray'd their Heads off, and flung their bodies into the ſea, which as an everlaſting memorial were turn'd into ſtone. But ſome people are more apt to give credit to theſe miraculous ſtories, than either you or I, my friend; for there is ſcarce a town in England of which the

more ignorant sort of people have not some strange stories to relate.

This town of Witby is commodiously situated on the river Esk, over which is a wooden-bridge, it has a considerable trade for butter and allom. To this place there are at least an hundred sail of trading vessels; and here is a fine custom-house; as likewise a good market on Saturdays, well serv'd with fish, flesh, and fowl.

Near Whitby is Mulgrave-castle, pleasantly situated in a park near the sea.

And further along the shore is a place call'd Skeningrove, a small town, but well inhabited by fishermen. Near this place, or rather Hunt-cliff, at low water, rocks are seen, about which the seal fish come in great shoals; and here they sleep and sun themselves in hot weather; and it has been often observ'd, that one of these fish is always awake, watching as a centinel, to give notice when any danger approaches, which he does by flouncing and flinging himself up and down till he has awak'd them all; and they immediately disappear.

Gisborough is the first town in England where allom was made; it is at present of no great note, but has however a market on Mondays for provisions.

At a little distance from this town is *Gunsbery* or *Roseberry-Topping*, an high pyramid, which serves as a land mark for sailors.

The vale of Ridale is in this part of Yorkshire, which is so large as to contain twenty three parish Churches.

Rich-

RICHMOND is a well inhabited town, ſituated on the river Swall; over which there is a ſtone bridge; this is a very rapid river, being rather a torrent than a ſtream; it was very ſacred amongſt the antient Engliſh for being the place where Paulinus the firſt archbiſhop of York baptiz'd above ten thouſand men in one day, beſides women and children.

IT is a town corporate; the houſes well built, many of free-ſtone, has a ſpacious market place, and the ſtreets are well pav'd. It is govern'd by a mayor and aldermen. Here is a court of record for all actions, both real and perſonal, without limitation of any ſum. The trade of Richmond conſiſts chiefly in ſtockings, and woollen caps for ſeamen.

IN this part of Yorkſhire are many deſert ſort of places; ſuch as *Swale-dale* foreſt, *Applegarth* foreſt and *Deep-dale*.

I think Beverly is as pleaſant a town as any I ſaw in Yorkſhire, where is a paſſage into the Humber for boats and barges, which is a great advantage for the carriage of goods. It is a large built town, in which are two pariſh churches and a minſter; and is govern'd by a mayor and aldermen; is well inhabited both by gentlemen and tradeſmen, and has a market on Thurſday and Saturday, well ſerv'd with proviſions.

HERE John de Beverly, arch-biſhop of York, was buried about a thouſand years ago; who being weary of the world, reſign'd his biſhoprick, and at this town ended his days in a holy and private manner. But I cannot learn, that there is any

probability of another arch-bishop of York being weary of his bishoprick; but numbers always gaping for that or any other; it not being customary for High-priests in these ages to be weary of the world; but on the contrary, to grasp at every thing they can lay hold of. For though the Christian Religion promises the greatest rewards to people who lead a good and holy life, and abstain from the pleasures and advantages of this world; yet most people now, from the example of their teachers, make use of an old proverb; *That a bird in Hand is worth two in the bush*; therefore make the most they can of this world; and trust for what is to come in the next. This my friend, is the real are undisguis'd state of christianity in England, from the most impartial and just observations I can make.

NEAR BOROUGH-BRIDGE, which is on the high road, and on the river Yare, are four large stones plac'd in a direct line, like so many pyramids, which by the learned are suppos'd to be erected by the Romans, as a memorial for some great victory; but the ignorant country people call them *The Devil's bolts*; and foolishly imagine he us'd them to shoot at ancient cities to destroy them; and that there anciently stood a city near this place call'd *Isurium Brigantum*, which the Devil demolish'd with these stones.

RIPPON is a place well inhabited by gentry, and has a great market every Thursday for cattle, corn, provisions, aud particularly for wool. It is govern'd by a mayor and aldermen. Here is a fine cathedral, famous in ancient days,

for

for trying women's chaſtity; there being a narrow hole in the cloſe vaulted room under ground, thro' which all chaſte women could eaſily paſs; but the kind and loving ſtuck faſt. And theſe prepoſterous trials were then taken for certain ſigns of the lewdneſs or chaſtity of women.

I HAVE given you the beſt account I am able of this county, which is larger than many principalities in Europe, being eighty miles long from Flamborough-head in the Eaſt to Horn-caſtle in the Weſt; and from Horn-hill in the South to the river Tees in the North, ſeventy miles broad; the whole circumference being about three hundred miles.

HAVING taken our leave of Yorkſhire we proceeded to the biſhoprick of Durham, whoſe biſhop has royal privileges; the chief city is call'd Durham, which is pleaſantly ſituated upon an eaſy aſcent, and almoſt encompaſs'd by the river Weare, over which are two large ſtone bridges, built by William *The Norman conqueror*, It is inhabited by abundance of gentry and rich tradeſmen, with many good buildings both publick and private, and has a ſpacious market place, to which plenty of proviſions are brought every Saturday.

HERE is a cathedral repreſenting Weſtminſter Abbey, with two ſpires and a lofty tower in the midſt. The biſhop's palace is a ſpacious caſtle ſituated on a high hill. In this city are ſeveral hoſpitals and a fine library.

NEAR Durham is *Nevil's croſs*, where a bloody battle was fought between the Engliſh and

and the Scots in the year 1346, in which David Bruce, the Scottiſh King, was taken priſoner by a private ſoldier, nam'd Copland, who had two hundred pounds a year ſettled upon him during life for his great ſervices in that battel.

THE biſhoprick of Durham was rais'd by Cuthbert, biſhop of Lindisfarne, a ſmall iſland on the coaſt of Northumberland; and from him anciently call'd *St. Cuthbert's patrimony*. He was a man of ſo holy a life, that the Kings, nobility, and gentry of England, us'd to go and pay their devotions at his tomb, imagining his body lay uncorrupted; and as a mark of their faith, gave very liberally to the church. A cuſtom much practis'd in ancient times but now entirely laid aſide; the Engliſh people having quite left off making ſaints, and paying adoration to dead bodies and tomb-ſtones.

DURHAM is very unpleaſant in winter time, being ſubject to many ſharp and piercing winds with abundance of froſt and ſnow; yet nature ſeems to have made amends for theſe inconvenientences by the great plenty of excellent coals which ſupply the want of the kind influence of the ſun; but in in ſummer-time the weather is fine and clear, tho' their harveſts are later in theſe Northern than in the other parts of England.

FROM the biſhoprick of Durham we paſs'd the Tyne over a fine bridge to Gates-head, the ſuburbs of Newcaſtle, which is a fine town on the riſing of a hill, with good buildings, and a great number of rich inhabitants; it lying very

very commodious for trade; and it is almoſt incredible to ſee the vaſt number of ſhips going to and coming from London, that great city being chiefly ſupply'd with coals from Newcaſtle. It was anciently call'd *Monk-cheſter*, being once poſſeſs'd chiefly by Monks; but Robert, ſon to William the conqueror, knew better than to let a place ſo well ſituated for a fortification be a receptacle for drones; therefore built a caſtle; and from thence it was call'd *New-caſtle*. It is a town and county of itſelf, govern'd by a mayor, twelve aldermen, a recorder and other ſub-officers. The people are very genteel in their manners; and affect much the dreſs and behaviour of the Londoners. The key is very commodious for the ſafety of ſhips; near which is the cuſtom houſe. It is a place of great ſtrength, and the river ſo well defended, that it is almoſt impoſſible for an enemy to come up to the town, and beſides it is dangerous coming in, and at ſometimes impracticable for thoſe who perfectly underſtand the ſituation of it, there being dangerous rocks.

Morpeth is a fine town ſituated on the river Wensbeck, and has the beſt market in Northumberland for proviſions, corn, and all ſorts of living cattle which are bought by people from ſeveral parts of the kingdom.

Berwick, is a place of great ſtrength both by art and nature; but is a town of it ſelf, being neither in England nor Scotland, tho' it ſtands on the North or Scottiſh ſide of the Tweed, which divides the two kingdoms: it is

almoſt

almoſt ſurrounded by the ſea and the Tweed. It has very often had new maſters; it being on the confines of the two countries, ſometimes the Scots and ſometimes the Engliſh poſſeſs'd it. But the Engliſh have had poſſeſſion of it ever ſince Edward the fourth. It has been of no great conſequence ſince the union of the two crowns, and leſs ſince the union of the two kingdoms.

It is govern'd by a mayor, bailiffs, and burgeſſes, has a great trade for Salmon, of which the Tweed abounds, and has a market every Saturday with plenty of proviſions. There is a ſtately bridge over the Tweed, conſiſting of fifteen arches.

There have been ſeveral bloody battles fought between the Engliſh and Scots near this place. At Otterburn the Scots gain'd a compleat victory over the Engliſh: At Alnwick the King of Scots was taken priſoner, and preſented to King Henry the ſecond; with ſeveral other battles, in which both nations were victorious at different times; but the Scots are now entirely in ſubjection to the crown of England; and ſend members to the parliament held at Weſtminſter. Their religion is indeed different, as to point of worſhip, which they ſtill retain as their national church; eſteeming that of the church of England to be ſuperſtitious: But it is a common thing for a great many people to ſtumble at trifles, and paſs over the moſt material parts of religion without any concern. I have known ſome people in London, whoſe

conſciences

conſciences won't permit them to ſwear allegi- allegiance to the preſent King of England; yet be guilty of the baſeſt actions in private life; ſuch as a man of common honeſty would be aſham'd of.

HAVING ſeen every thing worth obſervation in Northumberland, we ſet out for Carliſle, the capital of Cumberland, which is a very ancient city, and in a flouriſhing condition in the time of the Romans; but upon their departure, it ſuffer'd much by the Scots and Picts. Egfrid King of Northumberland wall'd it about; but it was afterwards quite demoliſh'd by the Danes, and lay in a ruinous condition for about two hundred years.

WILLIAM RUFUS at laſt built a caſtle here, and ſettled a colony of Flemings to ſecure this coaſt. Henry the firſt, brother and ſucceſſor to Rufus, eſtabliſh'd a biſhoprick; and then it began to flouriſh apace.

IT is pleaſantly ſituated on ſeveral rivers, which encompaſs it, except towards the ſouth; for on the eaſt is the river Peterill, on the weſt Caud, and on the north the channel Eden, which receiveth the other rivers, and after a ſmall courſe diſchargeth itſelf into the ſea.

CARLISLE is a well built city, adorn'd with a very fine cathedral, tho' ſome part of it is much defaced by the parliament forces in the reign of King Charles the firſt; here being guard-houſes built for the ſoldiers in gariſon.

IT is govern'd by a mayor, twelve aldermen, two bailiffs. Here is a good trade for fuſtians; and

and on Saturday, which is market-day, corn, wool, with several other commodities, as likewise all sorts of provisions, are brought here in great plenty.

At a little distance westward of Carlisle, at Burgh upon the sand, within the very Feyth, where the salt water ebbs and flows, the English and Scots fought at full sea with their fleets; and at the ebb with their horse and foot; which prov'd a bloody battle; and King Edward the first was slain.

Cockermouth, is a place of pretty good trade for broad-clothes; it is situated in a low ground, between the rivers Derwent and Cocker, which almost encompass it; and over these rivers are two good stone bridges; it has a pretty good market on Mondays for corn; is a long town, and well inhabited. Here are two fairs in a year, to which all those who want either servants or services come to provide themselves; tho' the same custom is observ'd at Perith, and most other towns in this part of the country.

The like custom is observ'd at Waltham-abbey in the county of Essex, about thirteen miles from London, to which, not only those who have occasion to hire servants; but many others resort; and it is remarkeble that the debauch'd and rakish young gentlemen from London, come here to hire the young neat country girls, they having much occasion for their service, but generally hire them but for a short time. I need not explain my self any further, for no doubt, Sir, you understand me.

White-

WHITEHAVEN, ſeated on a creek of the ſea, is a place of good trade for ſalt and coals; as likewiſe for fiſh: The inhabitants of this place are generally in good circumſtances, for they trade to Ireland, Scotland, Cheſter, Briſtol, and other places, and have ſeveral veſſels belonging to the town. Here is a very good cuſtom-houſe, and an excellent harbour for ſmall ſhips, which may ride with ſafety in the greateſt ſtorms.

AT Wulſtey caſtle, are ſaid to be the works of one Mitchael Scot, who led a recluſe life, and ſtudy'd the mathematicks, and other abſtruſe arts; the common ſort of people in the neighbourhood took him for a Necromancer, or one who ſtudies the black art, or in plainer terms, one who holds a correſpondence with the Devil.

IN the dark and ſuperſtitious ages, every man who had a greater ſhare of knowledge than common, was a conjurer, a necromancer, a heretick, or had ſome other very frightful name; and muſt for his ſuperior knowledge be burnt at a ſtake.

THESE idle ſtories are not entirely loſt in England, eſpecially among the more ignorant ſort of country people; who teach the children, either their own, or thoſe they nurſe for others, ſuch ſtrange ſtories of necromancers, the Devil, raw-head and bloody-bones, &c. that I heard a gentleman declare in company, notwithſtanding he was thoroughly convinc'd of the ſtupidity of ſuch idle ſtories, yet the frights and fears he had

had undergone when at nurſe, made him have a ſinking of his ſpirits, in ſpite of all his reaſoning, when he was in the dark and alone. But the Engliſh people having of late very judiciouſly ſet ſuch education aſide, ſpirits, hobgoblins, the Devil, &c. are not ſo often ſeen as they us'd to be.

PERITH or Penrith is ſeated under a hill call'd Perith-Fell, near the rivers Eimont and Lowther. It is a large well built town inhabited by tradeſmen, eſpecially tanners. Here is a fine church and a large market-place, to which every Tueſday is brought corn and live cattle, and all ſorts of proviſions,

AT Salkeld on the river Eden, are erected ſeventy ſeven ſtones as a trophy of ſome great victory; they are in height about ten feet, and one fifteen. They are now by the country people call'd *Long Megg and her Daughters.* Here are likewiſe great heaps of Stones, under which they told us was the bodies of ſlain men.

KENDALE is the chief town in Weſtmoreland; it is large, well built and populous; it has a good trade for cotton and coarſe woollen cloth, as likewiſe for druggets, ſerges, hats, worſted, ſtockings, &c. in which manufactures the poor are employ'd, both in town and places adjacent.

IT is pleaſantly ſituated in a good air, on the weſt ſide of the river Can or Kent, over which are three bridges, two of ſtone and one of wood, which laſt leads to a place where once was a caſtle, in which Catherine, the ſixth wife to King Henry the eighth was born. The town is built

built in form of a croſs, having two long ſtreets which cuts through each other in the middle. Here is a fine large church, ſupported by five rows of pillars, with ſeveral apartments, in which are ſeveral fine monuments. On one ſide of the church-yard is a free-ſchool, which is a fine large building, well endow'd; and ſends poor ſchoolars to Queen's-College in Oxford.

KENDALE is govern'd by a mayor, twelve aldermen, twenty common-council men, a recorder, town clerk, with other ſub-officers; and the mayor, recorder, and two of the ſenior aldermen are are always juſtices of the peace for the corporation, and keep their quarterly ſeſſions. Here are likewiſe kept the ſeſſions of the peace for the county, call'd *The barony of Kendale*. This town has ſome companions of tradeſmen, like thoſe in London, viz. The mercers, ſhearmen, cordwainers, tanners, glovers, taylors, and pewterers, each of which have their hall or place of aſſembly for electing officers, and regulating their affairs. It has a good market on Saturdays, for corn live cattle, and all ſorts of proviſion.

KIRBY-LAUNSDALE, ſeated on the banks of the river Lon, and in the pleaſant and rich vale of Londſdale, is a large well built town, with a fine church and a large ſtone bridge. It is the beſt town in Weſtmoreland next to Kendale; and has a large market on Thurſdays well ſerv'd with proviſions, and has ſome trade for cloth.

IN this county is the largeſt ſtanding water in England call'd Winder-meer, or Winander-meer,

meer, which is very broad and deep, and ten miles long, in which are great plenty of fish, such as jacks, trouts, pikes, perch, and Eels. It has a clear pebbly bottom, which made some people imagine it was pav'd with stone.

At the east side of this lake Eofred, King of Northumberland, slew the two sons of King Elwold, about a thousand years ago, that he might secure the kingdom to himself and his posterity, But if a crown can't be obtain'd without massacres and murders, I tell, you my friend, a crown so obtain'd must press very heavy upon the brain.

Near Ridale-hall is a great lake call'd Ridale water, in which are several islands.

Dunmaile-Raise, is a mountain over which we pass'd from Kendale to Cockermouth. In the road side are a great heap of stones, which divide this county from Cumberland; these stones are suppos'd to be put together by Dunmaile a king of Cumberland, as a mark for the bounds of his kingdom, or else by some others, for some remarkable action perform'd by him; or else for some victory obtain'd against him; but history leaves us in the dark: so every man forms what judgment he thinks proper in these affairs.

Appleby, is a town pleasantly situated, but not very populous, and the buildings indifferent. The inhabitants are generally very idle and poor, having no manufacture to employ them.

It contains one broad street, which is on an easy ascent; at the top of which is a castle almost surrounded with the river. Notwithstanding it

is

is at preſent a place of no great note, yet it is very ancient; King Henry the ſecond granting it the ſame privileges as the city of York enjoy'd, and were to go toll free in all places except London and York; and theſe privileges were confirm'd by King John. Here is an hoſpital conſiſting of a mother, who muſt be the widow of a deceas'd clergyman, with twelve ſiſters, eleven of which muſt be widows, and one old maid, founded by the lady Clifford about the year 1651. She likebeſtow'd ſeven hundred pounds in repairing the church, underneath which, in a vault ſhe is buried, having erected her tomb-ſtone before her death. She likewiſe purchaſed lands for keeping the ſaid church in conſtant repair; as likewiſe the ſchool-houſe, town-hall, and bridge.

THIS corporation was originally govern'd by a mayor and two bailiffs; but now by a mayor and twelve aldermen. It has a market on Saturday for corn and proviſions.

KIRBY-STEPHENS, divides Weſtmoreland from Yorkſhire, is a good market-town, and hath a conſiderable trade for making ſtockings.

ORTON is a poor market town, ſeated amongſt heaths; and the inhabitants ſay, they have not ſo much as a ſtick or a bough to hang a dog on.

ON Stainmore-hill is a croſs erected on a peace concluded between William the conqueror and Malcolme, King of Scotland; on condition that Cumberland ſhould belong to Malcolm: And that the ſubjects of each kingdom might know their limits, a ſtone croſs was erected here, which is call'd *Reere-croſs*, or *The croſs of Kings*; for

for on the ſouth ſide the arms of Englands were engraven, and on the north thoſe of Scotland.

BETWEEN Lowther-bridge and Eamont-bridge, is a large round circle of ground, in the midſt of which is a fine plain; the country people told us it was the place where the knights of *The Round-table* kept tilts and tournaments, here being two oppoſite paſſes to make their approaches in, and they now call it *Arthur's Round-table.*

IN this county of Weſtmoreland we ſaw ſeveral ruins of caſtles, with forts and trenches, which by the ſeveral pieces of coin and other antiquities, ſeem to have been places of ſome ſtrength when the Romans were maſters of this country.

THE people in all theſe northern countries are very ſtrong and healthy, much inur'd to labour, and generally live to a good old age. Their ſpeech is different from the ſouth or northern parts; for the people of every county in England have a different accent in their voices, and ſome vary ſo much, that a north country-man, and a weſt country-man can ſcarcely underſtand one another.

I HAD almoſt forgot one town we were at which is Nottingham, a place worth remarking, ſituated on the river Leane, which at a quarter of a mile diſtance falls into the Trent; and over theſe two rivers are two ſtone-bridges. This is a fine laege town, the buildings very noble, and the ſtreets neat and clean. Here is likewiſe a ſpacious market place; and at the

weſt

weſt ſide of the town is a caſtle; from which there is a delightful proſpect, and was once not inferior to any in England, both for ſtrength and magnificence; but it was depriv'd of its ſtrength in the wars between King Charles the firſt and his parliament. Before the Norman conqueror reduc'd this kingdom to one monarchy, Ethelred, King of the Weſt-Saxons, with Burthred, King of the Mercians, part of whoſe dominions was in this county of Nottinghamſhire, brought a powerful army to attack this town, then in the poſſeſſion of the Danes, who having in vain made uſe of all their art and ſtrength were oblig'd at laſt to raiſe the ſiege: This caſtle is now the ſeat of the Duke of Newcaſtle.

HERE we ſaw abundance of ſtrange vaults or cellars, hewed out of rocks, to which we deſcended by many ſteps or ſtairs; and I muſt confeſs I began to think my ſelf going to *the Devil's arſe of Peak* again.

ON the walls of one of theſe cellars we were ſhown the paſſion of Chriſt, cut by David the ſecond King of the Scots, who was there impriſon'd. But I think they did not uſe the King well to put him in ſuch a hole. However this advantage might attend his majeſty, that without trouble he would have had no religion; and in this cellar he might learn the ready way to heaven. For it is the receiv'd doctrine among many Chriſtians, that God puniſhes good men on earth with affliction and trouble to make them entirely forſake this world, and look for a better. But I muſt tell you very freely

freely, my friend, that few chriſtian Kings would leave their ſplendid palaces, and retire into one of theſe Nottingham cellars for their neareſt way to heaven.

CELLS and Hermitages are quite out of doors in England; and the pleaſures of this world are ſo much admir'd that many people deſtroy themſelves becauſe they can't have enough to enjoy them. Voluntary poverty and a hut in a wilderneſs are things no ways lik'd at preſent.

NOTTINGHAM is govern'd by a mayor, ſix aldermen, two ſheriffs two chamberlains, and other ſub-officers. It is well inhabited, and for an inland town enjoys a good trade. Here is a market on Wedneſday, Friday, and Saturday, but the laſt the moſt conſiderable, for corn, cattle, proviſions, and various ſorts of goods.

HAVING taken our leave of all this part of England, we embark'd on board a veſſel at White-haven, in order for Briſtol, the next town to London in the whole kingdom for trade. At Briſtol I intend to take up my quarters for ſome time; from whence you may next expect to hear from me. I remain,

Your conſtant and undiſguiſed Friend.

LET-

LETTER XXI.

SIR,

AFTER being about fourteen days in a rough and boiſterous ſea, called the Iriſh ſea, we at laſt arriv'd at Briſtol, which is a large city, ſeated between the rivers Avon and Froom. It in ſome meaſure reſembles London, the river Avon dividing this as the Thames does London and Southwark. As London is in itſelf a county, Briſtol is the ſame, and each of theſe cities have two ſheriffs. One ſide of London bridge is in Middleſex, the other ſide in Surrey; one ſide of the bridge at Briſtol is in Glouceſterſhire, the other in Somerſetſhire. Upon London bridge are abundance of houſes and ſhops, which reſemble a large ſtreet of great trade rather than a bridge; at Briſtol there is a bridge much of the ſame nature. London is a place where ac-

quaintance, friends, and relations will often ſacrifice one another for money; but the Briſtol people exceed the Londoners much, for they are not only very covetous, but cruel in nature; and were not the laws of England to reſtrain them would regard no more killing a man than they would a dog; for they ſnarl at one another much like thoſe creatures. They are, in ſhort, for the moſt part, an ill natur'd ſurly people: but I met here with ſome few of as much humanity and good nature as any other parts of the kingdom.

Bristol was by the ancient Britons call'd *Caerdernant-Badon*, that is, *a ſweet and delightful city*; and its ſituation and buildings both publick and private, deſerve that character. There are common ſinks and ſewers that carry off the filth of the ſtreets into the river Avon, as thoſe of London carry the filth into the Thames; but at Briſtol they make uſe of no carts, but carry away their filth in ſledges. It is a city of great extent, containing eighteen pariſh churches, beſides a cathedral, of whoſe grandeur indeed I can't ſay much. It had a caſtle which was demoliſh'd by Oliver Cromwell, and is now built into ſtreets call'd Caſtle-green and Caſtle-ſtreet. Here is a good port, and the principal key ſtands upon the Froom, which brings in ſhips of a large burthen; for at Spring-tides here is forty foot water. It is a place of great trade, and has abundance of rich merchants and tradeſmen. The merchants trade to all parts of the known world by ſea; and the ſhop-keepers have a vaſt trade

into

into Shropſhire, Wales, and many other counties.

By the beſt obſervations I could make the citizens of Briſtol drive as great a trade, and are as rich as thoſe of London. The women have a particular privilege and advantage above other cities, where a woman becomes free of any place by marrying a freeman; but here a foreigner becomes free by marrying a citizens, daughter; whereas in London a woman loſes her's; but the Briſtol women are remarkable for being crooked. I was told that Queen Elizabeth granted them this privilege, to get them husbands.

Bristol is govern'd by a mayor, court of aldermen, two ſheriffs and other ſub-officers, which are cloth'd in ſcarlet, as thoſe of London.

Here is a charity, call'd Colſton's hoſpital, which is the largeſt, next to Sutton's at London, of any in England for a private man, where above a hundred poor lads are cloth'd and maintain'd after the manner of Chriſt's hoſpital in London, founded by King Edward the ſixth.

Adjoining to the cathedral, is a ſquare or green where are ſeveral fine houſes, and is by much the moſt genteel part of the city. Here the merchants and rich tradeſmen have their little pleaſant ſeats not far from the city in the ſame manner as thoſe of London.

Near this city are hot ſprings, call'd *The Hot Well*, which are very much frequented, being for ſome diſtempers eſteem'd more than Bath, and there is this difference between them, that

Bath waters are good for nothing unleſs us'd upon the ſpot, and Briſtol improve in virtue by being kept.

WHILE we were at Briſtol we reſolv'd to take two or three days pleaſure to ſee ſomething of Herefordſhire, which is a very fertile country, the hedges bearing apples.

HEREFORD, is delightfully ſituated among meadows and rich corn fields, and almoſt encompaſs'd with rivers; but the city itſelf is but indifferently built, and for the moſt part dirty. It is govern'd by a mayor, aldermen, and common-council, a recorder, town-clerk, and other ſub-officers. Here are three markets a week, viz. Wedneſdays, Fridays, and Saturdays; Friday for cattle, ſheep and hogs, and the others for grain. It is likewiſe a famous place for making gloves, which are ſent in great quantities to London, and other parts of the kingdom.

IN this county is a place call'd Marclehill, which kept moving for three days together; in which time it got four hundred yards from its former ſituation, and carry'd along with it twenty ſix acres of ground; it made ſo great a noiſe in its journey, that it terrify'd all the neighbouring inhabitants, bearing down every thing that it met with. But it being uncommon in our days to have theſe traveling mountains, I leave you to credit ſuch ſtories as you pleaſe.

HERE is likewiſe a place call'd *Bone-well*, wherein the bones of ſmall fiſhes are conſtantly found, but never a fiſh to be ſeen.

AND

AND between Sutton and Hereford, in a common meadow call'd *The Wergins*, were plac'd two large ſtones of at leaſt three tons weight, which a ſhort time after the beheading of King Charles the firſt were mov'd at a conſiderable diſtance, without any one's knowing by what means; therefore the country people imputed it to Devil, they having a notion that Oliver Cromwell had dealings with that infernal ſpirit; and an Engliſh hiſtorian of ſome credit ſeriouſly ſays, he certainly had, which made him ſo ſucceſsful in a bad cauſe. Theſe ſtories I likewiſe leave to your ſelf, to believe as you think proper.

HAVING learnt as much as we could of Herefordſhire, we bent our courſe into Glouceſterſhire, being determin'd to make the moſt of our time we could.

GLOUCESTER is the capital city in this county; and lyeth as it were ſtretch'd along the river Severn, over which their is a bridge. Here is a pretty cathedral, in which King Edward the ſecond, who was murder'd by his wife, is bury'd; as likewiſe the body of Lucius the firſt chriſtian King.

GLOUCESTER is a county within itſelf, is govern'd by a mayor, two ſheriffs, twelve aldermen, a recorder, and other ſub-officers: This city is well ſupply'd with all ſorts of commodities, and has a market on Wedneſdays and Saturdays, for corn, cattle, and all ſorts of proviſions.

AT a place call'd Alney-iſle, near this city Edmund Ironſide, King of the Engliſh Saxons,

and Canute the Dane, fought in ſingle combat; and at laſt agreed to part the kingdom, till treaſon depriv'd King Edmund of his life, and left the Dane ſole monarch.

CIRCESTER or Cirenceſter, is a noted town, and a place of great antiquity; here being Roman coins, checker work pavements, and engraven marble ſtones frequently dug up; which are plain proofs of its antiquity.

THIS town was once conſum'd to aſhes by a ſtratagem of Gurmund, captain of the Danes, who ty'd fire to the wings of ſparrows, and then immediately let them fly; who ſettled in the holes about the houſes, and thus conſum'd it. And it is ſometimes on that account call'd *The ſparrows city.* Its chief trade conſiſts of wool and yarn, a market for proviſions which is kept on Friday; and one on Monday for corn.

TEWKSBURY is likewiſe a town of ſome note for woollen cloths, as likewiſe for the beſt muſtard in the kingdom.

NEAR this place a moſt bloody battle was fought in the year 1471. between the houſes of York and Lancaſter; wherein the Lancaſtrians were entirely overthrown and a vaſt number ſlain, but a greater number taken priſoners, many of which were beheaded. And here young Prince ward, the only ſon of King Henry the ſixth, who was a youth about twelve years old, had his brains daſh'd out in a moſt ſhameful and ſcandalous manner.

HEROD's cruelty is look'd upon as a very barbarous action for deſtroying innocent children,

in

in order to murder Chriſt, who he thought would have dethron'd him. Yet you ſee, my friend, that no ſcruple was made to daſh out the brains of a King's ſon, to make a throne eaſy of acceſs.

I HAVE heard much talk of a kingdom of glory, ſince I have been in England; but I never could find, but that upon the moſt ſtrict unprejudic'd and impartial ſcrutiny, the kingdom of grandeur and riches was the Alpha and Omega of moſt men.

THIS I write to you my friend, as the true ſentiments of a ſincere heart.

BUT to return: Cirenceſter is ſituated on and between the rivers Severn, Avon, and the Swilyat, over each of which is a bridge. It is well inhabited, and well provided with corn and cattle.

BARKLEY is a ſmall town, ſeated on a branch of the Severn. Here was once a nunnery, in which a confederate of Earl Goodwin, got the lady abbeſs and ſeveral of her nuns with child; after which the earl told the affair to the King, by which means madam abbeſs and her virgins were turn'd out; and then Earl Goodwin begg'd it for himſelf. Tho' I muſt confeſs, I think it a treacherous action, if it was done with deſign; as one may naturally ſuppoſe it was: For notwithſtanding women may reſolve to live a recluſe life, in a ſtate of virginity, yet they are fleſh and blood, and when reſolutely and artfully attack'd, I believe moſt women muſt at laſt ſurrender at diſcretion. I don't mention this to leſſen

a woman's chaſtity, but the difficulty there is in withſtanding the efforts of nature.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE is as pleaſant and fruitful a county as any in England; apples, pears, and plumbs grow in the highways and lanes; without grafting; and are of an excellent good taſte. Abundance of cattle are here fed, with great flocks of ſheep whoſe wool is particularly fine, of which great quantities of cloth is made, and ſent into other foreign countries.

NOTWITHSTANDING Herefordſhire is the moſt noted county in England for cyder, yet Glouceſterſhire and Worceſterſhire produce as good, and is drank in as great plenty, it being the common draught for all ſorts of people, as malt liquor is at London and other places.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE likewiſe produces abundance of iron and ſteel, particularly in the foreſt of Dean.

WE are now ſetting out for Bath, of which place I ſhall give you ſome account in my next. I am,

SIR,

Your Friend and Servant.

LET-

LETTER XXII.

SIR,

I HAVE now taken my reſidence for a ſhort time at Bath, which is a place of great antiquity, ſeated on the river Avon, over which it hath a ſtone-bridge. This city lies in a low ground; but with ſeveral fine hills adjoining, out of which ſpring the waters ſo much fam'd for their virtues, and of ſuch prodigious advantage to the city.

BATH hath had ſeveral names on account of the waters; by Ptolomy call'd *Hot-waters*, by Antoninus *The waters of the Sun*; by the Britons *The city of Palace water*; and by the Saxons *The city of ſick people*. But it does not deſerve that name at preſent; for it is more frequented for cuſtom and pleaſure, than for the cure of

distempers: It is indeed remarkable for making barren women conceive, which they will certainly do here, if 'tis possible; for no methods are wanting. These waters are of such a wonderful efficacy in barren causes, that women have here conceiv'd without the assistance of their husbands. But then I leave to you, my friend, to judge with whose assistance they must conceive.

HERE is abundance of intrigue and gaming; and I am much surpriz'd, that the English ladies are so much addicted to gaming; for the gentlemen entirely throw of all breeding and good manners; and treat them with the same roughness as they would any other person in gaming; no regard being shown to their Sex. Here a young lady lost all her fortune, which was very considerable; and then hang'd herself in her own chamber. But the women are so bewitch'd to this vice, that if they were sure to be ruin'd, and the gallows, as the consequence, put before their eyes, I believe they could not refrain from gaming.

VISITS are here paid and receiv'd in a very free manner; it being common for gentlemen to wait upon the ladies in their bed-chamber before they be up in a morning. Here is a gentleman, who is a sort of master of the ceremonies; he is of neither birth nor estate, but has always plenty of money; and much in favour with the ladies; keeps the best company, and is the director and supervisor of all parties of pleasure. He appears in dress as rich as a nobleman. He is of so much service to the town, that at his arrival the bells

ring,

ring, and as much joy appears, as if he was their King.

THE company generally rise early in the morning, to drink the waters, then walk about till prayer time; and they for the most part go to church in their morning dishabille. After church they go home to dress; then to the walks to get them a stomach for their dinner; and to furnish them with table-talk; which for the most part is upon dress and scandal.

THE walks are behind the church, spacious and well shaded, with variety of shops, particularly those for toys; without which abundance of people would be at a loss to divert themselves, and trifle away their time.

PEOPLE of all ranks, except the first quality, go promiscuously into the King and Queen's baths, which have a communicution with one another.

THE manner of going into these baths is very particular; two chairmen come to your bed side; the landlord where you lodge supplies you with a gown, at the bath you are again stripp'd, and a sort of canvas bag put upon you, which is wore all the time of bathing. The chairmen afterwards carry you back in the same manner they brought you.

THE water seems very warm at first going in; but is much warmer in the Queen's bath, where the great spring rises.

THE cross bath is but moderately warm. On the sides of it are sixteen stone seats; and the end galleries for musick and the spectators; under which

which are two slips, one for the gentlemen and the other for the ladies. This is the smallest bath, but the most freqented by people of the first quality.

THIS bath was beautify'd and enclos'd for the reception of King James the second's Queen, who came here to be made fruitful, which she accordingly was; for in nine months a Prince of Wales was born; but both King James and his Queen were oblig'd to move out of the kingdom; and their Prince of Wales is now in Italy. This is he whom we heard landed at Scotland, where he had a great party, as likewise in England in the regin of King George the first; but they were routed both in England and Scotland at the same time; and so this *Bath Prince of Wales*, whose mother had a sanctify'd smock sent her by the Virgin Mary at Loretto, to forward his birth, was oblig'd to get off as well as he could; and gain'd such a character for cowardice, that his party in England has droop'd prodigiously from that time; and now dwindled to nothing, except a few people call'd *Non-jurors*, who are very much diminish'd, and the remainder much despis'd and ridicul'd. So that the present King of England reigns quite undisturb'd; except some jars and quarrels between a few of the great men concerning taxes and the publick administration of affairs, which are very freely debated in the weekly News-papers; which I mention'd in a former letter.

BUT to return: Here is a hot bath, so call'd, because it is much hotter than the other: 'Tis wall'd

wall'd in, but not so much us'd as the cross bath. These two baths are in the midst of the street on the west side of the city; near them is an hospital for relieving poor people who come there for the recovery of their health. The largest bath is the King's, and it stands near the cathedral, in the heart of the city; and is inclos'd with a wall. Here are several crutches hung up as memorials of the cures perform'd upon such who came cripples, but recover'd sufficiently to leave their crutches behind them. And here are such a number of poor people, who come partly for relief and partly for cure, that *The sturdy beggars of Bath* are a common proverb: Though the English beggars in other places, but particulrrly at London, are sturdy and impudent enough; for they will frequently abuse people for not giving them money; and when they have got any they spend it it rioting and drunkenness. An acquaintance of mine desir'd me to go along with him to see the behaviour of the beggars; which I accordingly did: The house they us'd was somewhat about St. Giles's, London: And such a company was certainly never seen. Here they appear'd in all their counterfeits; and were telling one another how much they got the day before; for it was a grand festival; at which time a great many people receive the sacrament, and are mighty charitable. Here I saw a fellow with only a blanket to cover his nakedness, hugging a wench who was a young wanton hussy, but the day before resembled a sick old woman. The naked fellow had the art of trembling, as if he had

had an ague; but was now merrily toping his dram of Geneva. Here they all exercis'd; but it would quite ſpoil their trade of begging, if many well diſpos'd people were to ſee theſe lazy drones and villainous impoſters.

BUT to return to Bath; the buildings are neat, the ſtreets well pav'd, but narrow; and here are many courts and alleys to which coaches can't come. Here are chairs, in which for ſixpence people are carry'd from one part of the town to the other, within the walls.

THE Duke of Chandois, whoſe fine houſe of Cannons I gave you an account of, has here built a ſtreet of fine houſes. On the north ſide of the town a ſchool is erected, which is maintained by the charitable contributions of ſtrangers; upon whom the livelihood of the greateſt number of people at Bath depend; for were it not for the waters, the town would ſoon be ruin'd.

HERE is likewiſe a theatre and pleaſant walks, for the company, with raffling ſhops along the ſide; with a ball room, to which are pleaſant gardens down to the river, and nothing is wanting to make the place agreeable to the company: And I think the people at Bath are the moſt affable and polite of any place in England I have ſeen; for they have good nature in their very faces; but at Briſtol, which is but at a ſmall diſtance, you would be ſurpriz'd at the difference; but I have before told you the manners of the Briſtol people, which are rude to the laſt degree. I am,

SIR,

Your Faithful Friend and Servant.

LET-

LETTER XXIII.

SIR,

I SHALL in this letter give you ſome account of the places I was at in this part of England; and firſt,

WELLS, ſituated on the foot of a hill, where are ſeveral ſprings and wells, from which this city takes its name. It is indeed but ſmall, yet well inhabited, and the buildings generally good. The cathedral is a fine pile of building, as likewiſe the biſhop's palace, which is built in the manner of a caſtle, being fortify'd with walls and a mole, with ſeveral pretty houſes for the prebends, and other prieſts belonging to the cathedral.

THIS

THIS city is govern'd by a mayor, seven masters, sixteen burgesses, a recorder, town clerk, and other sub-officers; and has a market on Wednesdays and Saturdays, with all sorts of provisions very cheap.

CANESHAM, is much inhabited by maulsters, which makes it very unpleasant, it being always full of smoke; it has an indifferent market on Thursdays.

TAUNTON is most pleasantly situated among fine meadows, on the river Thane, over which there is a fine bridge. The streets are spacious, and the place well inhabited both by gentlemen and tradesmen, particularly clothiers, who have a very considerable trade. It has a market on Wednesdays and Saturdays, to which his brought plenty of corn, with fish, flesh, and fowl.

BRIDGWATER, is situated on a river, over which is a fine stone-bridge; it is a large town, and populous, and has a great market on Thursday for corn and provisions. It gives title to a duke, sends two members to parliament, and is govern'd by a mayor, with other sub-officers.

THE riches of Somersetshire consist chiefly in corn and cattle; and about Mendip-hills and Bradfield-downs are rich lead mines.

AT St. Vincent's rock there are several stones resembling diamonds, commonly call'd Bristol stones, some of which have a fine lustre.

WE went thro' this country into Wiltshire, directly to Salisbury or New-Sarum, pleasantly situated on a river. The streets are large and spacious, and the cathedral is a fine structure, having

having as many gates as months in the year, as many windows as weeks, and as many pillars as days in the year. It has a very lofty ſpire, which is ſeen at a great diſtance round the country; it has likewiſe a large cloyſter finely wrought, near which is the biſhop's palace. This city is encompaſs'd with open fields and plains; in which, at about ſix miles diſtance from the city, is as ſurprizing a piece of work, call'd Stone-henge, conſiſting of a large number of unwrought ſtones, eſteem'd one of the greateſt rarities in England. Theſe ſtones are ſuppos'd to be rais'd by the ancient Britons as a perpetual monument of the valour of Ambroſius Aurelianus, who took upon him the Imperial purple robe of Britain, when the Roman Empire declin'd. He ſuccour'd a languiſhing country, and by the aſſiſtance of Prince Arthur vanquiſh'd powerful armies; but was at laſt ſlain in battle upon this plain.

THIS tradition ſeems to be of ſome authority; for at the town call'd Ambresbury, ſituated on the river Avon, mens bones have been dug up; and the town ſeems to take its name from Ambroſe: and here many Britiſh Kings were bury'd. In this place Alfritha, wife to King Edgar, built a nunnery, to expiate that horrid crime of murdering her ſon-in-law; and in this nunnery Queen Eleanor, widow to King Henry the third, renounc'd all worldly pomp, and devoted herſelf to a holy life.

SOME people are of opinion, that the ſtones before mention'd are not hewn out of a rock, but

but artificially made of ſand; and by ſome conglutinous matter incorporated together; but theſe things are all imaginary; and every one pleaſes himſelf in forming his own judgment.

WILTON is the county-town, yet a very mean place; but however, here the ſheriff keeps his monthly courts; and the knights of the ſhire are choſen.

THE Devizes is a large town and very populous; has a large market on Thurſdays for horſes, cattle, and corn; as likewiſe for ſeveral ſorts of goods and proviſions.

COLNE, ſituated on a river of the ſame name; it is built on a ſtony ground, and is a very poor town. At this place, about eight hundred years ago a provincial council was held to ſettle the diſputes between the monks and prieſts concerning a ſingle life, and whilſt they were debating upon the matter, the convocation-houſe fell down, and many noblemen, prieſts and gentry then preſent were kill'd or wounded.

MARLBOROUGH, is ſituated on a chaulky ground, near Savernake-foreſt, and Alburne-chace. It is govern'd by a mayor and burgeſſes, and has a great market on Saturdays for corn, mault, proviſions, and eſpecially for cheeſe; but Cheſhire, Glouceſterſhire, and Warwickſhire are the moſt noted counties for good cheeſe, as Suffolk is for the worſt ſort. The great Duke of Marlborough, whom I have mention'd before took his title from this place.

MALMESBURY pleaſantly ſituated on the river Avon, is a good borough town, govern'd by

by a mayor and aldermen; and has a good market on Saturday for corn and proviſion. Theſe are the moſt remarkable places in Wiltſhire; which is a pleaſant and fertile inland country.

I SHALL now proceed to Dorſetſhire, the chief town of which is Dorcheſter, pleaſantly ſituated on the ſouth ſide of the river Froome, the buildings are very compact; and the inhabitants generally in good circumſtances; here being a good cloth-trade; as likewiſe a good trade for beer, which is very much drank in London, and in great eſteem.

THIS town is govern'd by two bailiffs, eight aldermen, a recorder, two clerks, two ſergeants, and other ſub-officers. Here is a free ſchool for the education of youth, and an almshouſe for the relief of poor people.

WEYMOUTH is ſeated on the river Wey, on the oppoſite bank of which ſtands Melcombe, or Melcombe-regis: Theſe two places were formerly always at ſtrife, both enjoying the ſame privileges of the haven; but the judges and courts were at laſt quite tir'd with their continual ſuits; therefore they were incorporated into one body by act of parliament in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and are under the government of a mayor, and aldermen. Immediately after their union they built a bridge croſs the river for the more convenience of the inhabibitants. Theſe united towns enjoy a good trade; but Melcomb is the beſt ſituated, and of courſe more inhabited. The markets which are o

Tueſda n

Tuesdays and Fridays are well provided with all necessaries.

NEAR to Weymouth, southerly, is the isle of Portland, which is a place of great strength as well by art as nature, being environ'd by inaccessible rocks, except at the place of landing, where there is a strong castle call'd Portland-castle; and almost opposite to it on the land side towards Weymouth, is another, call'd Sand-foot castle, which two command all ships that pass into the road. The ground is very good for corn, and indifferent for pasture; but so destitute of wood and other fuel, that the inhabitants make their fires of dry'd cow-dung. On the south side of this isle stands the church, so near the sea, that the church yard banks are rais'd almost to an incredible height to secure the church from the fury of the waves. And there we saw Portland race, which is the meeting of two tides; and the force of both is so great, that it is dangerous passing over it in the calmest weather. In this island are plenty of corn and cattle; and several quarries of stone.

LYME, or Lyme-regis, is a good sea-port town, well built on both sides of a river, over which there is a bridge. It is govern'd by a mayor, who is a justice of peace during his mayoralty: Near Lyme is a small village call'd Charmouth, where the Danes twice landed their forces, when they came to subdue this isle.

SHAFTSBURY, is in the northern parts of the county of Dorset towards Wiltshire; situated on a high hill in form of a full bent bow. Here is

is a very ſerene and healthy air; but no water, except what is brought from the foot of the hill. At this town King Edward the ſecond was buried; and being canoniz'd a ſaint, his ſhrine was ſo much frequented, that from him it was call'd Burgus St. Edward.

At this place likewiſe dy'd Canute the Dane, who made himſelf firſt maſter of England.

It is a large thorough-fare market town, and has a good market on Saturday for corn, fleſh, and living cattle. It is govern'd by a mayor, and twelve aldermen.

Here is a very old cuſtom obſerv'd to preſerve the fair, the townſmen carry to the green a thing they call a beſome; being a frame of wood richly adorn'd with gold, jewels and ribbons, which is carry'd by one of the ſergeants, the mayor and aldermen attending with muſick, dancing, and various ſorts of diverſions; and here they preſent the lord of the mannor's bailiff with a raw calve's head, bread, beer, and a pair of gloves, as homage due for their water.

Wimborne Minſter is a town of more antiquity than beauty; it being the place where Lutle Burga built a nunnery, after having ſued a divorce from her husband the King of Northumberland; and from the ſplendor of a Queen betook herſelf to the religious life of a ſolitary nun.

Cranborne is a pretty market town, here being a chace which extends itſelf almoſt to Salisbury.

BETWEEN Cranborne and Wimborne is a wood call'd Harley; of which places the country people have this proverb; *When Harley has no hares, Cranborne no whores, and Wimborne no poor, then the World will be at an end.*

POOL is a pretty good sea port and market town; and is enclos'd on all sides, except the north by the sea.

WARKAM is the most ancient town in Dorsetshire, seated between two rivers, and was once a good harbour for ships; but is now almost gone to decay.

WE travel'd thro' Dorsetshire into Devonshire, whose chief city is Exeter, very pleasantly situated upon an easy ascent, on the river Ex, from whence it took its name, and over which there is a fine stone bridge. It is a place of good trade. It was formerly of such strength that the ancient Britains maintain'd it against the Saxons for near five hundred years.

IT is govern'd by a mayor, twenty four aldermen, a recorder, town clerk; and other sub-officers; hath a market on Wednesday and Friday for provisions; and has a great trade for serges.

PLYMOUTH is a good sea port town. Here is a harbour where ships may ride without hazard of the seas or enemies; it being a place of very great strength. It is well inhabited, has a good trade, and is govern'd by a mayor, aldermen, and common-council. It has a market on Mondays and Thursdays, furnish'd with all sorts of provisions, and live cattle.

FROM

FROM this port the famous *Black Prince* ſet out for France to maintain his father's right; attended with the Earls of Warwick, Oxford, Suffolk, and Salisbury, the Lord Chandois, with many other of the nobility and gentry; and after gaining a great victory over the King of France at Poictiers, he return'd hither with the French King and many of the nobility his captives.

FROM this port the great Admiral Drake and Mr. Candiſh, ſet out for their diſcoveries of unknown parts of the world; and here lord Howard, high admiral of England in the year 1588. beat the Spaniſh fleet. It is a general rendezvous for ſhipping; for here the outward bound ſhips ſtop to take in freſh proviſions; and the homeward ſtop to pay their welcome to their native ſoil.

DARTMOUTH is likewiſe a good port town, well inhabited, and is govern'd by a mayor and aldermen.

TOTNESS, ſituated on the Dert, and Tiverton on the Ex, are both good market towns; and the latter has a good trade for cloths.

BEDIORD is commodiouſly ſituated on the Towridge, over which there is a large ſtone bridge, under which a veſſel of ſixty tons may paſs.

DEVONSHIRE is in general a barren country; the ground is manur'd with lime, rags, and ſand, which they have from the ſea ſhore. But its barrenneſs is in ſome meaſure recompenced by its rich lead and tin mines, and the great quantity of fiſh taken from the ſea-coaſts.

WE

We went from Devonſhire into Cornwall, the moſt weſtern county in England, which thruſts itſelf as it were into the ſea.

The air is very fine and healthy; but ſubject to ſtorms in the winter ſeaſon. The country is in general full of hills and rocks, but cruſted over with a ſhallow earth; which is for the moſt part barren, but then it produces great quantities of ſtone and ſlate for building; as alſo copper and precious ſtones, call'd Corniſh diamonds; but it is moſt remarkable for its tin mines, which bring immenſe riches. Theſe tin mines are diſcover'd by ſtones lying on the ſurface of the earch, or cover'd with a little earth, which they call *ſhoad*, as fallen from the *great load*. If the load where the tin lies is a foot and half broad, it is reckon'd a rich work; but except many loads run together, it ſeldom exceeds a foot.

If the work is large, and requires many hands, they have an overſeer or captain who allots each man to his proper work; alſo to fix pumps for drawing off the water.

In working theſe lead mines, the earth ſometimes falls in, by which ſeveral people have been kill'd; and the damps that ariſe are very prejudicial. I gave you a very ſingular inſtance of working in mines in a former letter.

Before the tin is brought to perfection it paſſes through many hands; for after it is dug up in the ſtone it is broke to pieces, and carry'd to the ſtamping mill to be broke ſmaller; and if the ſtones are moiſt, they are dry'd by the fire in an iron grate or cradle. From the ſtamping mill

mill it is carry'd to the crazing mill, which bruiſeth it to fine ſand; but inſtead of the crazing mill they uſe wet ſtampers; then they waſh the earth from the tin. After this is done, every owner carries his proportion to the blowing houſe, where it is melted, and caſt into pieces of three and four hundred weight; on which the owners ſet each their proper mark; and then it is carry'd to the place of coinage.

THE towns for coinage are Truro, Helſton, Liſtwithiel, and Liskerd; and the times of coinage are about Midſummer and Michaelmas.

THE tinners have great privileges; ſuch as keeping courts, call'd *Stannery courts*, in which all controverſies are decided, when either plaintiff or defendant deals in black and white tin; and they cannot be ſued in any other court.

THE chief officer is call'd, *The warden of the Stannery*, who acts both as judge in law, and chancellor in equity.

THE Corniſh men ſpeak a ſort of language of their own; and a traveller after reſiding ſome time in London, will be as much at a loſs to underſtand them, as if he had never been in England. They are great wreſtlers: *The Corniſh hug*, a way of throwing a man, being much practis'd in other parts of England. They are much inclin'd to feaſting and merry making, and are for the moſt part of an hoſpitable diſpoſition.

THIS country has very few places of note, yet ſends more members to parliament than any county in England; for there are many good

towns in England that ſend none, yet in Cornwall if there is but two or three thatched houſes, it ſends members to parliament.

FALMOUTH is indeed a good harbour for ſhips, where a hundred ſail may ſafely ride at anchor: At the entrance into it is a rock, which the inhabitants call *Crage*; but is of no detriment; for when the tide comes in, it diſcovers it ſelf by a pole fix'd on it; and at low water it is plainly ſeen

IT is a town of good trade, govern'd by a mayor, and has a good market on Thurſdays for corn and proviſions.

TRURO, ſeated on a branch of Falmouth haven, is pretty large and well inhabited; this being the place where the Weſtern aſſizes are held; it is govern'd by a mayor, and has two markets a week.

A great part of this country runs along the ſea coaſts; at *The Naſs point* the land thruſts itſelf into a promontory, at the ſouth weſt of which is *The Lezard point*; a great mark for ſeamen.

LAMORNY point is the moſt weſtern part of this county, and the kingdom of England; and here the land ſtretches itſelf to a point between the Iriſh and Britiſh ſeas.

HAVING now got to our journey's end; after ſtaying a ſhort time in this country, a letter was diſpatch'd to have our yatcht in readineſs at Falmouth; and after having ſail'd by a great part of the Engliſh coaſt, at laſt we arriv'd at London;

London; where I am at present in a good state of health, and much pleas'd with my travels. I am,

SIR,

Your Friend and Servant.

LETTER XIV.

SIR,

THERE send you some general remarks upon the English nation. Their Kings are, or may be, the most great and happy men upon earth, if they aim not at absolute authority; but when once they attempt it, their happiness is lost, if not their crown.

THEY have three fine palaces within twelve miles of one another, viz. At St. James's, Kensington, and Hampton-court; the latter most delightfully situated on the banks of the Thames, in a country which consists chiefly of rich pastures and fine seats, the houses in every village being built like palaces.

PLENTY is in moſt parts of the kingdom, and induſtry every where; but the artizans and working men in London are the moſt laborious in the whole kingdom; the country people in general not being ſo covetous, but allow themſelves ſeveral recreations. The people are good-natur'd, in common life; but very much the contrary when favours are ask'd; and from good-nature become very ſurly: They are very much given to uſury, and will do nothing without a reward, for thoſe that do ſervices thro' a principle of generoſity, are often laugh'd at by the very perſons they have ſerv'd: Therefore in moſt caſes the Engliſh make ſure and lawful bargains for whatever they undertake. They are apt to overreach one another in trade; and will do little actions for profit.

THEY have a great many laws, yet few know what they are, but the profeſs'd lawyers; who make prodigious advantage of the law; inſomuch that people are afraid of what ought to be their protection; looking upon the law as a devouring monſter.

THE kingdom abounds with churches; beſides vaſt numbers of what they call meeting-houſes, frequented by Presbyterians, Baptiſts, Quakers, Independents, and innumerable other denominations of religion. Every man is tolerated to worſhip God in what manner he pleaſes, except the Roman Catholicks; yet they are under the ſanction of foreign Ambaſſadors, and increaſe prodigiouſly.

THE

THE worſhip of the national church is an excellent form; yet cuſtom has made it ſo familiar, that the people goſſip, take ſnuff, obſerve dreſs; and in ſhort are guilty of a thouſand little indecencies the whole time of divine ſervice; ſome indeed are very quiet, and ſleep inſtead of praying. No regularity is obſerv'd; ſome kneeling, ſome ſtanding, ſome ſitting, and ſome laughing.

I have not been a little ſurpriz'd at the ſtupidity of the Engliſh people, for reading the Jewiſh laws in their churches, as ſacred, and diſregarding their own, which are the ſolemn ties and rule of the kingdom. I here ſend you ſome of theſe Jewiſh laws, with what remarks I have made upon them.

IF a man entice a woman that is not betrothed, and lie with her; he ſhall ſurely endow her to be his wife.

THIS law is not regarded: For if a man debauches a woman with her own conſent, no farther recompence is made, than that the man ſhall take care of the child, if the woman brings forth: Pariſh law indeed obliges the man to marry a woman he gets with child, provided he can't give ſecurity for its maintenance.

RABBITS, hares, and ſwines fleſh are forbidden: yet the Engliſh reckon all theſe dainty diſhes: The lapwing is likewiſe forbidden, yet eſteem'd as fine food, and eat accordingly; mice and ſnails are forbidden, yet adminiſtred medicinally.

THE

THE foreskin of a male-child is to be cut round; yet never obſerv'd.

EVERY year the people are to be cleanſed from their ſins, which is never regarded.

NO man ſhall eat blood; the Engliſh people tranſgreſs this law in two reſpects; firſt, they eat the blood; and ſecondly they eat the blood of ſwines.

THE corners of mens beards are not to be touch'd; the Engliſh ſhave all their beards off.

THE prieſts ſhall not make baldneſs upon their heads, nor ſhave off the corners of their beards; they both make bald their heads, wear as pretty perriwigs as any men; and give the barbers as trouble much in ſhaving their beards, as any beaux in the kingdom.

THE prieſts ſhall not take a wife that is a whore; a noblemen's chaplain will often marry his maſter's caſt-off whore to get a good benefice.

THE daughter of a prieſt that playeth the whore ſhall be burnt with fire. The prieſts daughters are ſo remarkable for being whores, that it is a common proverb among the Engliſh, *A parſon's daughter to make a whore.* Neither is their puniſhment greater than any other whores.

A high prieſt ſhall not marry a widow. The high prieſts make no ſcruple of it, provided the widow is rich.

NO man to be admitted into the prieſthood, that hath any blemiſh, or is lame, hath any thing ſuperfluous, or that is broken footed or broken handed,

ded, crook back'd, a dwarf; if he has the ſcurvey or ſcabs, or has his ſtones broken, he is likewiſe forbidden the prieſthood.

THE prieſts have as many blemiſhes as any men; ſeveral are lame both in body and mind, and have abundance of ſuperfluities; the broken handed or broken footed are not deny'd the prieſthood; there are ſeveral crook-back'd prieſts, and dwarfs, for the ſtature is not regarded; the ſcurvy or ſcabs are no hindrance; and they never examine whether a prieſt's ſtones are whole or broken.

THE owners of the field are not to clear the corners of it, neither are they to take the gleanings, but leave them to the poor. The corners of all fields are clear'd as much as poſſible; and the poor have not the gleanings.

EVERY ſeventh year the land is to lie uncultivated; and not ſo much as the natural produce to be gathered; this law is ſo far from being obſerv'd, that the land ſhall not lie uncultivated for twenty years, if it will produce any thing that will turn to gain.

YE ſhall eat no manner of fat, of ox, ſheep, or goat. This is ſo far from being obſerv'd, that many people eat ſcarce any thing but fat.

IF a man is jealous of his wife the prieſt ſhall charge her with this oath: If no man hath lain with thee, be thou free from this bitter water that cauſes the curſe; but if thou haſt lain with another man beſides thy husband, The Lord make thee a curſe among the people; and thy thigh to rot and belly to ſwell. The woman is to ſay Amen, Amen,

Amen, and then to drink the bitter water. All this is not regarded in the leaſt, nor any credit given to the bitter water; nor I believe by few ſo much as thought of.

IF any man take a wife, and go in unto her, and hate her, and give occaſion of ſpeech againſt her, and bring up an evil name upon her, and ſay, I took this woman, and when I came to her, I found her not a maid. Then ſhall the father of the damſel and her mother, take and bring forth the tokens of the damſel's virginity, unto the elders of the city in the gate. This is ſuch a prepoſterous law, that it would be reckon'd obſcenity in any other book than the Bible; and a man would be look'd upon as a brute to think of expoſing the ſecrets of the female ſex, ſo far as to have the tokens of his wife's virginity made a ſhow.

WHEN men ſtrive together one with another, and the wife of the one draweth near for to deliver her husband out of the hand of him that ſmiteth him, and putteth forth her hand, and taketh him by the ſecrets: Then thou ſhalt cut off her hand: thine eye ſhalt not pity her. This the Engliſh people would call an impudent and malicious action; yet no perſon dare cut a woman's hand off for ſo doing.

HE that is wounded in the ſtones, or hath his privy member cut off, ſhall not enter into the congregation of the Lord.

A baſtard ſhall not enter into the congregation of the Lord, even to his tenth generation.

All people have liberty to enter into the congregation of the Lord, without being ask'd any queſtions, either concerning their ſtones or their privy members. And if baſtards were excluded to the tenth generation, one fourth part of the whole kingdom would be excluded.

There are abundance more of theſe inſignificant laws read in their churches, but the laws of the kingdom never read in them. Beſides a ſett of the Engliſh ſtatutes coſts too much money for many people to purchaſe. Inſtead therefore of reading the Jewiſh laws, every pariſh ought to have the laws of England compleat, chain'd in a proper place in their church, where every one might have the liberty of referring to them upon any occaſion. And every Sunday, or publick holiday, the prieſt ſhould read one of theſe acts; and when a new one is made, as there are generally ſeveral every ſeſſions of parliament; they ought to be publickly read in all churches and places of worſhip; by this means no one could plead ignorance; which numbers may now do with a great deal of truth. The Engliſh are undoubtedly a wiſe people in making laws; but I think their wiſdom deficient in their method of communicating them to the publick.

Thus my dear friend I have given you a general account of the Engliſh nation, as to their manners, laws, cuſtoms, deſcription of the country, and every thing worth notice which has occur'd to me.

I intend very ſhortly to ſet out for my native country, to enjoy the pleaſure of converſing with my old hearty friends.

THUS wiſhing you health, happineſs, long life, and all the enjoyments the earth can afford. I remain

Your conſtant, undiſguis'd, and

ſincere Friend for ever.

F I N I S.